THURSDAY
May 4, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Is it a blessing?

That Karnataka is witnessing historic unemployment?

That price rise remains unchecked?

That urban infrastructure is crumbling and rural infrastructure is non-existent?

That we get ₹15 in return for every ₹100 we pay in taxes, while other states get our money?

That investments coming into Karnataka are deliberately diverted to other states?

That your own party politicians loot 40% in commission on every tender?

That our borders and natural resources are sacrificed for political games?

That the very existence of Nandini is threatened?

That social unrest is perpetrated, and our people are divided for votes?

That Karnataka has slipped from 3rd to 5th in GSDP and is lagging behind on all development indices?

Despite forming an illegitimate Government, we Kannadigas trusted you to bless us 4 years ago. But you let us down.

Today, we no longer need your blessings.

What we need are our rights, development and progress.

Vote for Congress.
Let Karnataka lead the way for the country once again.

Press the 'Hand' button Ensure Congress wins

Gruha Lakshmi ₹2000/month for women

Gruha Jyothi 200 units FREE electricity

Yuva Nidhi ₹3000/month for graduates | ₹1500/month for diploma holders

Anna Bhagya 10kg rice per person/month

Uchita Prayana Free Bus Service for Women

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TWO-DAY CONCLAVE

SCO Foreign Ministers to meet in Goa today

NEWS » PAGE 11

IMHANS SERVICE

Helpline to the rescue of Kashmiris

NEWS » PAGE 12

DOWN 11 PLACES

India's rank falls to 161 in press freedom index

NEWS » PAGE 10

CHANGING NARRATIVE

Karnataka poll and ideological contestations

Parties are redrawing their political contours

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

BIG CHASE

Kishan, Suryakumar deliver for Mumbai

SPORT » PAGE 15

Citing report, SC declines Rajoana's mercy plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday found it inappropriate to direct the government to commute the death penalty of Balwant Singh Rajoana – who is on death row for the 1995 assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh – in view of the Home Ministry's conclusion that a decision on the mercy petition now would impact national security.

Justice Vikram Nath, who authored the verdict, said it was not up to the court to "delve" on the Ministry's decision to defer a decision on the clemency plea. "It is within the domain of the executive to take a call on such sensitive issues," the court said. It said the Ministry's call to postpone its decision on the mercy petition actually amounted to declining the plea for the time being.

SC sets aside HC stay on inquiry into Amaravati land scam

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Cabinet committee set up by A.P. govt. found irregularities in various projects during TDP regime

In a legal victory for the Jagan Mohan Reddy government, the Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside an Andhra Pradesh High Court order issuing a "blanket stay" on an inquiry into the Amaravati land scam and the alleged role of the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) regime.

The events in this case unfolded in June 2019 when the Reddy government issued a notification constituting a Cabinet subcommittee to review major policies, projects, programmes, institutions and the key administrative actions taken by the TDP government following the bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh.

Fraudulent transactions

The first report of the subcommittee on December 27, 2019 pointed out "several procedural, legal and financial irregularities and fraudulent transactions concerning various projects..., including in the Capital Region Development Authority region".

On February 21, 2020, the State government issued another notification setting up a Special Investigating Team (SIT) to "inquire, register, investigate and conclude the investigation" into the findings of the report.

Both notifications were stayed by the High Court indefinitely, prompting the State to approach the top court for relief.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

No union, but Centre ready to ease living of gay couples

Govt. proposes panel to look into 'genuine, human concerns'; Supreme Court says it is a 'step forward' and a 'big, big positive' towards social acceptance of right of same-sex couples to cohabit

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Wednesday that it was willing to form a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary to consider administrative measures for addressing "genuine, human concerns" faced by same-sex couples in their daily lives in areas such as banking and insurance, without delving into their petitions for legal recognition of same-sex marriage.

"The government is positive. Something can be done administratively regarding genuine concerns of same-sex couples. This would require coordination among different Ministries. Therefore, we have decided, subject to the court's approval, to form a committee headed by none less than the Cabinet Secretary. My friends [the petitioners] can give their suggestions about the problems they are facing. The committee will go into them and see, as far as possible and legally permissible, how they can be addressed," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, submitted before a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

> The court can now go into whether same-sex couples have a right to cohabit together in a normal, peaceable environment in our country without facing any form of discrimination, societal or otherwise
>
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD** Chief Justice of India

> The government, though reluctant to give same-sex relationships the status of marriage, is not reluctant to sort out the human concerns arising out of them. To that extent, there is consensus
>
> **S.K. KAUL** Supreme Court judge

The Bench termed the government's stand a "step forward" and even a "big, big positive" towards achieving wider social acceptance of the right of same-sex couples to cohabit.

Next step

The Chief Justice said the court could now go into whether same-sex couples have a "right to cohabit together in a normal, peaceable environment in our country without facing any form of discrimination, societal or otherwise".

The court said the suggestion from the government to form a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary indicates its readiness to recognise the incidence of cohabitory relationships among same-sex couples.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

NEARBY

Rains lead to leakage at T2

BENGALURU
Heavy rain on Tuesday evening resulted in leakage at the new KIA terminal. KIA recorded 9.8 mm of rainfall during the day, and a Twitter user posted a video and pictures of water leaking from outside Terminal 2. » PAGE 2

PM to undertake roadshow in city

BENGALURU
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a mega roadshow titled "Karnataka Yatre" in Bengaluru on May 6, covering 36.6 km in eight hours. The roadshow will cover 17 Assembly constituencies of the total 28 in Bengaluru city.
» PAGE 4

Go First lands in NCLT with ₹11,463-cr. dues

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Go First approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wednesday and sought the admission of its insolvency plea. It owes creditors ₹11,463 crore, the airline said in its insolvency filing.

The NCLT, Delhi has listed the matter for Thursday.

According to *Reuters*, the airline, in its petition, said its total liabilities to all creditors stood at ₹11,463 crore, which includes dues to banks, financial institutions, vendors and aircraft lessors.

"Currently, the assets of the company are not sufficient to meet its liabilities," the airline said in the filing as per *Reuters*.

On Tuesday, the airline suspended flights for three days and announced its decision to seek insolvency proceedings before the NCLT. It blamed grounding of 25 aircraft due to delays in delivery of engines by Pratt & Whitney for its failure to meet its financial obligations.

Responding to Go First's claims that its cash crunch was precipitated by Pratt & Whitney's failure to deliver engines, the engine maker said it was complying with the March 2023 arbitration ruling. The Singapore International Arbitration Centre had ordered P&W to provide Go First 10 engines by April 27 and another 10 by December.

G-20 stop

Tight sieve: CRPF personnel patrolling the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar on Wednesday. Jammu and Kashmir is on high alert ahead of the G-20 working group meeting scheduled to be held in Srinagar from May 22. NISSAR AHMAD

Ukraine sent drones to target Putin: Russia

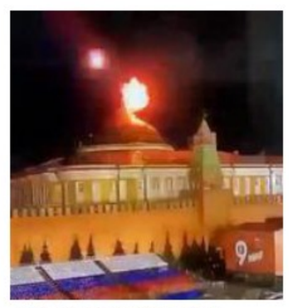
Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russian authorities accused Ukraine on Wednesday of attempting to attack the Kremlin with two drones overnight in an effort to assassinate President Vladimir Putin.

The Kremlin decried the alleged attack attempt as a "terrorist act", and said Russian military and security forces "disabled" the drones before they could strike. It did not elaborate.

A video published on a local Moscow news Telegram channel showed what looked like smoke rising over the Kremlin.

Kyiv categorically denied involvement in the attack. "We do not attack the Kremlin because, first of all, it does not solve any military problems. Absolutely. And this is extremely disadvantageous from the point of view of preparing our offensive measures," Ukraine's presidential adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, said.



A still image from a video shows a flying object exploding near the dome of Kremlin.

April PMI signals services sector had best expansion in 13 years

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's services sector recorded its highest uptick in new business and output levels since June 2010 this April, led by a strong upturn in the finance and insurance segment, as per the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index, which rebounded from a decline to 57.8 in March to 62 in April.

A reading of 50 on the index indicates no change in business activity levels.

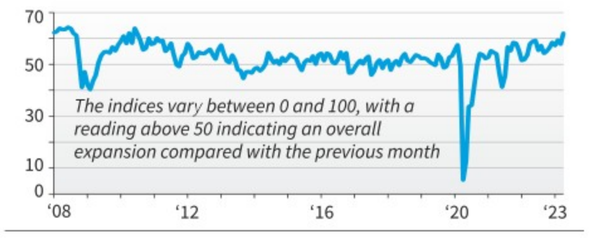
New export orders expanded for the third month in succession and at the fastest pace over this period. However, job creation remained negligible in April and input cost inflation, which had hit a two-and-a-half-year low in March, surged to a three-month high, with firms reporting a rise in costs on food, fuel, medicine, transportation and wages.

Consumer services firms recorded the fastest upturn in average expenses, as per the survey-based monthly indicator, but all services sectors raised selling prices at the fastest pace in 2023, with the most acute price hikes undertaken by transport, information and communication businesses.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Getting down to business

Rising from 57.8 in March to 62 in April, the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index signalled the fastest expansion in output since June 2010



Number of candidates with criminal cases up from last polls: ADR report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The number of candidates with declared criminal cases has increased in all three major political parties between the 2018 Assembly elections and now.

The number of cases has gone up from 83 to 96 among BJP candidates, 59 to 122 among Congress candidates, and 41 to 70 cases among JD(S) candidates, revealed the report 'Karnataka Assembly Elections 2023: Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender, and other Details of Candidates' released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) on Wednesday.

'Red alert' constituencies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

About 50% of the total constituencies (111 out of 224) have been declared as 'red alert' constituencies in the Association for Democratic Reforms report, meaning that three or more candidates from these constituencies have declared criminal cases against themselves. When compared with the 2018 Assembly elections, the 'red alert' constituencies have gone up by 25 percentage points (56 constituencies in 2018). Byatarayanapura constituency in Bengaluru tops the list with seven candidates having criminal cases against them.

Eight candidates who have declared murder-related cases, 35 candidates who have declared attempt to murder cases, and 49 candidates who have declared cases of crime against women are contesting in this year's Assembly elections. Among the candidates who have declared cases of crime against women, one is facing a rape case.

Congress candidates have a higher number of criminal cases against them, including serious criminal cases. While 55% of Congress candidates have declared criminal cases, 31% have serious criminal cases. In the BJP, 30% of the candidates have serious criminal cases while in the JD(S) 25% of the candidates have declared serious criminal cases.

The ADR has recommended that there should be permanent disqualification of candidates convicted of heinous crimes such as murder, rape, smuggling, dacoity, and kidnapping.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

Scuffle breaks out between wrestlers and Delhi Police

Mehul Malpani
NEW DELHI

A scuffle broke out at Jantar Mantar between wrestlers protesting against Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, and personnel of the Delhi Police late on Wednesday.

The wrestlers alleged that some officers attacked them with batons. Speaking to reporters amid the chaos, Bajrang Punia said some of the wrestlers had brought wooden cots to sleep due to rain after which some policemen "attacked them".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The shares of Adani Wilmar tank after quarter four results

5 In percentage. The company reported a 60% decline in consolidated net profit for the March quarter. Adani Wilmar reported a consolidated net profit of ₹93.61 crore on lower revenue amid a fall in the prices of cooking oils. PTI

The average ticket size of retail investors declines in FY23

3 In percentage. The average ticket size of retail investors in mutual funds dropped in March this year to ₹68,321. The investors had an average account size of ₹70,199 as of March 2022. Institutional investors had the highest ticket size at ₹10.11 crore per account. PTI

The number of prisoners pardoned by Myanmar junta

2,153 Myanmar typically grants amnesty to thousands of prisoners to mark national holidays or Buddhist festivals. The military has arrested thousands of protesters since February 2021. AFP

The rise in India's coal production in the last five years

22.6 In percentage. India's coal production registered a growth to 893.08 million tonnes in FY23, according to an official statement. The production of Coal India Limited has increased to 703.21 MT from 606.89 MT in FY19. PTI

The troops Germany will pull out from Mali by May 2024

1,110 The German government will pull out from the UN mission MINUSMA in Mali over problems with the ruling junta. MINUSMA was created to stabilise the country. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The EU's Artificial Intelligence Act

What are the stipulations mentioned in the new draft document of the European Union's AI Act? Why are AI tools often called black boxes? What are the four risk categories of AI? How did the popularity of ChatGPT accelerate and change the process of bringing in regulation for artificial intelligence?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:
After intense last-minute negotiations in the past few weeks on how to bring general-purpose artificial intelligence systems (GPAIS) like OpenAI's ChatGPT under the ambit of regulation, members of European Parliament reached a preliminary deal this week on a new draft of the European Union's ambitious Artificial Intelligence Act, first drafted two years ago.

Why regulate artificial intelligence?
As artificial intelligence technologies become omnipresent and their algorithms more advanced – capable of performing a wide variety of tasks including voice assistance, recommending music, driving cars, detecting cancer, and even deciding whether you get shortlisted for a job – the risks and uncertainties associated with them have also ballooned.

Many AI tools are essentially black boxes, meaning even those who designed them cannot explain what goes on inside them to generate a particular output. Complex and unexplainable AI tools have already manifested in wrongful arrests due to AI-enabled facial recognition; discrimination and societal biases seeping into AI outputs; and most recently, in how chatbots based on large language models (LLMs) like Generative Pretrained Trasformer-3 (GPT-3) and 4 can generate versatile, human-competitive and genuine looking content, which may be inaccurate or copyrighted material.

Recently, industry stakeholders including Twitter CEO Elon Musk and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak signed an open letter asking AI labs to stop the training of AI models more powerful than GPT-4 for six months, citing potential risks to society and humanity. "Powerful AI systems should be developed only once we are confident that their effects will be positive and their risks will be manageable," the letter said. It urged global policymakers to "dramatically accelerate" the development of "robust" AI governance systems.

How was the AI Act formed?
The legislation was drafted in 2021 with the aim of bringing transparency, trust, and accountability to AI and creating a framework to mitigate risks to the safety, health, fundamental rights, and democratic values of the EU. It also aims to address ethical questions and implementation challenges in various sectors ranging from healthcare and education to finance and energy. The legislation seeks to strike a balance between promoting "the uptake of AI while mitigating or preventing harms associated with certain uses of the technology".

Similar to how the EU's 2018 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) made it an industry leader in the global data protection regime, the AI law aims to "strengthen Europe's position as a global hub of excellence in AI from the lab to the market" and ensure that AI in Europe respects the 27-country bloc's values and rules.

What does the draft document entail?
The draft of the AI Act broadly defines AI as "software that is developed with one or more of the techniques that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, generate outputs such as content, predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing the environments they interact with". It identifies AI tools based on machine learning and deep learning, knowledge as well as logic-based and statistical approaches. The Act's central approach is the classification of AI tech based on the level of risk they pose to the "health and safety or fundamental rights" of a person. There are four risk categories in the Act – unacceptable, high, limited and minimal.

The Act prohibits using technologies in the unacceptable risk category with little exception. These include the use of real-time facial and biometric identification systems in public spaces; systems of social scoring of citizens by governments leading to "unjustified and disproportionate detrimental treatment"; subliminal techniques to distort a person's behaviour; and technologies which can exploit vulnerabilities of the young or elderly, or persons with disabilities.

The Act lays substantial focus on AI in the high-risk category, prescribing a number of pre-and post-market requirements for developers and users of such systems. Some systems falling under this category include biometric identification and categorisation of natural persons, AI used in healthcare, education, employment (recruitment), law enforcement, justice delivery systems, and tools that provide access to essential private and public services (including access to financial services such as loan approval systems). The Act envisages establishing an EU-wide database of high-risk AI systems and setting parameters so that future technologies or those under development can be included if they meet the high-risk criteria. Before high-risk AI systems can make it to the market, they will be subject to strict reviews known in the Act as 'conformity assessments'– algorithmic impact assessments to analyse data sets fed to AI tools, biases, how users interact with the system, and the overall design and monitoring of system outputs. It also requires such systems to be transparent, explainable, allow human oversight and give clear and adequate information to the user. Moreover, since AI algorithms are specifically designed to evolve over time, high-risk systems must also comply with mandatory post-market monitoring obligations such as logging performance data and maintaining continuous compliance, with special attention paid to how these programmes change through their lifetime.

AI systems in the limited and minimal risk category such as spam filters or video games are allowed to be used with a few requirements like transparency obligations.

What is the recent proposal on general purpose AI like ChatGPT?
As recently as February this year, general-purpose AI such as the language model-based ChatGPT, used for a plethora of tasks from summarising concepts on the internet to serving up poems, news reports, and even a Colombian court judgment, did not feature in EU lawmakers' plans for regulating AI technologies. The bloc's 108-page proposal for the AI Act, published two years earlier, included only one mention of the word "chatbot." By mid-April, however, members of the European Parliament were racing to update those rules to catch up with an explosion of interest in generative AI, which has provoked awe and anxiety since OpenAI unveiled ChatGPT six months ago.

Lawmakers now target the use of copyrighted material by companies deploying generative AI tools such as OpenAI's ChatGPT or image generator Midjourney, as these tools train themselves from large sets of text and visual data on the internet. They will have to disclose any copyrighted material used to develop their systems. While the current draft does not clarify what obligations GPAIS manufacturers would be subject to, lawmakers are also debating whether all forms of GPAIS should be designated as high-risk. The draft could be amended multiple times before it actually comes into force.

How has the AI industry reacted?
While some industry players have welcomed the legislation, others have warned that broad and strict rules could stifle innovation. Companies have also raised concerns about transparency requirements, fearing that it could mean divulging trade secrets. Explainability requirements in the law have caused unease as it is often not possible for even developers to explain the functioning of algorithms.

Lawmakers and consumer groups, on the other hand, have criticised it for not fully addressing risks from AI systems.

The Act also delegates the process of standardisation for AI technologies to the EU's expert standard-setting bodies in specific sectors. A Carnegie Endowment paper points out, however, that the standards process has historically been driven by industry, and it will be a challenge to ensure governments and the public have a meaningful seat at the table.

Where does global AI governance currently stand?
The rapidly evolving pace of AI development has led to diverging global views on how to regulate these technologies. The U.S., currently does not have comprehensive AI regulation and has taken a fairly hands-off approach. The Biden administration released a blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights (AIBoR). Developed by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the AIBoR outlines the harms of AI to economic and civil rights and lays down five principles for mitigating these harms. The blueprint, instead of a horizontal approach like the EU, endorses a sector-specific approach to AI governance, with policy interventions for individual sectors such as health, labour, and education, leaving it to sectoral federal agencies to come out with their plans. The AIBoR has been described by the administration as a guidance or a handbook rather than a binding legislation.

On the other end of the spectrum, China over the last year came out with some of the world's first nationally binding regulations targeting specific types of algorithms and AI. It enacted a law to regulate recommendation algorithms with a focus on how they disseminate information. China's Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), which drafted the rules, told companies to "promote positive energy", to not "endanger national security or the social public interest" and to "give an explanation" when they harm the legitimate interests of users. Another piece of legislation targets deep synthesis technology used to generate deepfakes. In order to have transparency and understand how algorithms function, China's AI regulation authority has also created a registry or database of algorithms where developers have to register their algorithms, information about the data sets used by them and potential security risks.

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- Members of European Parliament reached a preliminary deal this week on a new draft of the European Union's ambitious Artificial Intelligence Act.
- Many AI tools are essentially black boxes, meaning even those who designed them cannot explain what goes on inside them to generate a particular output.
- The new legislation seeks to strike a balance between promoting "the uptake of AI while mitigating or preventing harms associated with certain uses of the technology".

CMYK S BG-BGE

OM SHRI GURUBASAVALINGAYA NAMAHA

HIREMATH SAMSTHAN VIDYAPEETH TRUST(R), BHALKI

Sri Channabasaveshwar Gurukul (Resi.) PU Science College, Kardyal - 585 413

Tq. Bhalki - Dist. Bidar - Karnataka

WITH EVER - BENIGN BLESSINGS OF POOJYA DR. SRI. BASAVALINGA PATTADEVARU, OUR COLLEGE ONCE AGAIN SECURES UNBEATABLE RESULTS TO STAND AS AN EDUCATIONAL GIANT IN KARNATAKA

GURUKUL MAKES A LANDMARK VICTORY IN JEE MAINS - 2023

VINAY RAMRAO

AIR RANK 389

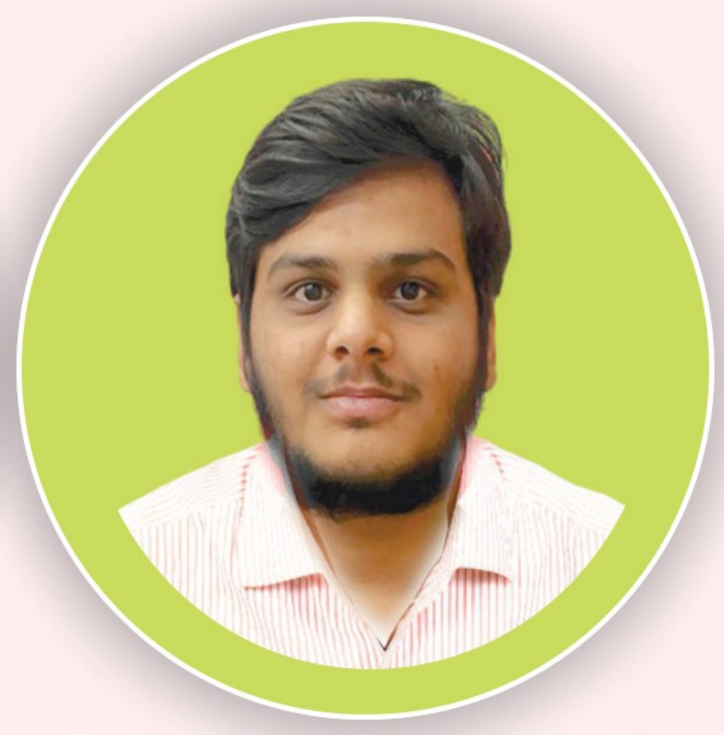
NTA SCORE	
PHYSICS	- 99.53
CHEMISTRY	- 99.75
MATHEMATICS	- 99.72
TOTAL	99.82%

KARNATAKA STATE TOPPER

DINESH VAIJINATH

AIR CAT. RANK 107

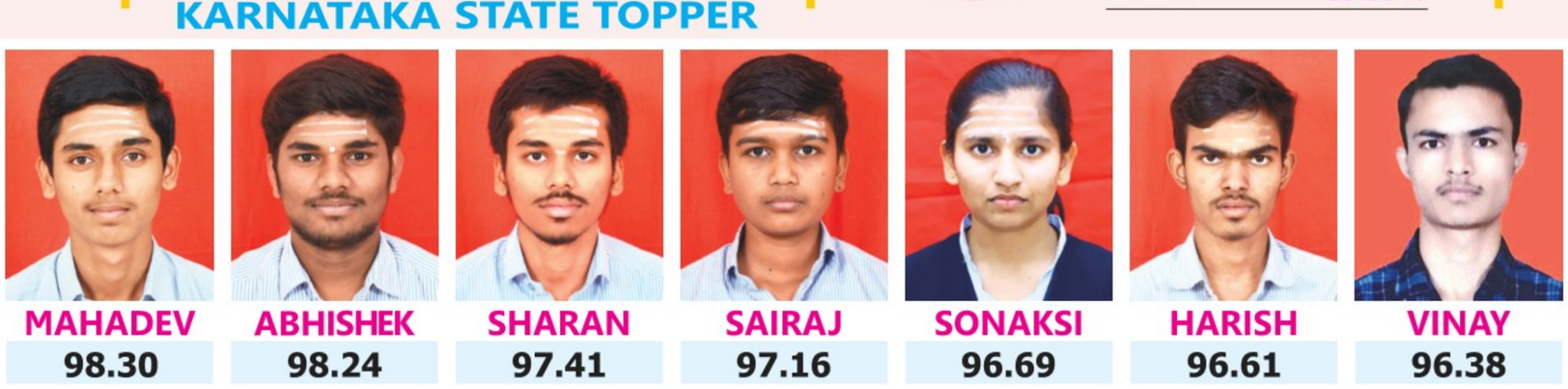
NTA SCORE	
PHYSICS	- 99.65
CHEMISTRY	- 99.88
MATHEMATICS	- 97.06
TOTAL	99.53%



SANGAMESH SUBHASH

AIR RANK 1287

NTA SCORE	
PHYSICS	- 99.43
CHEMISTRY	- 98.64
MATHEMATICS	- 97.84
TOTAL	99.02%



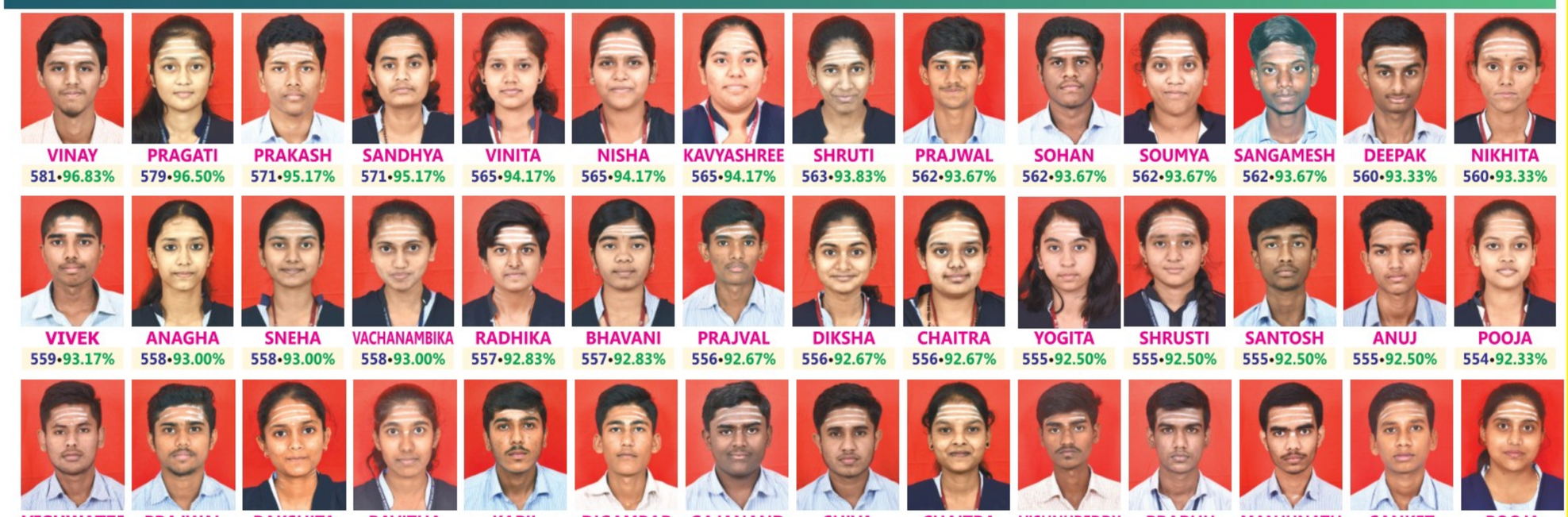
MAHADEV	ABHISHEK	SHARAN	SAIRAJ	SONAKSI	HARISH	VINAY
98.30	98.24	97.41	97.16	96.69	96.61	96.38

No. of Students appeared for JEE Mains 160

PRASANNA	BHANUTEJA	KIRAN KUMAR	TEJASHWINI	SUSHILKUMAR	SANTOSH	ABHISHEK
95.65	95.58	95.39	95.25	95.20	95.09	95.05

No. of Students eligible for JEE Advanced 102

BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE IN PUC-II RESULT-2023



VINAY	PRAGATI	PRAKASH	SANDHYA	VINITA	NISHA	KAVYASHREE	SHRUTI	PRAJWAL	SOHAN	SOUMYA	SANGAMESH	DEEPAK	NIKHITA
581•96.83%	579•96.50%	571•95.17%	571•95.17%	565•94.17%	565•94.17%	565•94.17%	563•93.83%	562•93.67%	562•93.67%	562•93.67%	562•93.67%	560•93.33%	560•93.33%
VIVEK	ANAGHA	SNEHA	VACHANAMBIKA	RADHIKA	BHAVANI	PRAJVAL	DIKSHA	CHAITRA	YOGITA	SHRUSTI	SANTOSH	ANUJ	POOJA
559•93.17%	558•93.00%	558•93.00%	558•93.00%	557•92.83%	557•92.83%	556•92.67%	556•92.67%	556•92.67%	555•92.50%	555•92.50%	555•92.50%	555•92.50%	554•92.33%
VISHWATEJ	PRAJWAL	RAKSHITA	BAVITHA	KAPIL	DIGAMBAR	GAJANAND	SHIVA	CHAITRA	VISHNUREDDY	PRABHU	MANJUNATH	SANKET	POOJA
554•92.33%	554•92.33%	553•92.17%	553•92.17%	553•92.17%	552•92.00%	552•92.00%	552•92.00%	551•91.83%	551•91.83%	551•91.83%	551•91.83%	550•91.67%	550•91.67%

PUC II - 2023 Result at A Glance

TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS APPEARED	843
TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS PASSED	839
COLLEGE OVERALL RESULT	99.52%
TOTAL NO. OF DISTINCTIONS	277
TOTAL NO. OF DISTINCTIONS IN PCMB	379
TOTAL NO. OF DISTINCTIONS IN PCB	360
TOTAL NO. OF DISTINCTIONS IN PCM	360
TOTAL NO. OF DISTINCTIONS IN PCMCS	023

100 MARKS SCORED		
	MATHS	06
	PHYSICS	03
	BIOLOGY	02
	CHEMISTRY	01

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENTS AND STAFF

ADMISSIONS ARE OPEN FOR PUC I YEAR SCIENCE & COMMERCE | NEET/JEE MAINS & ADVANCED

Contact : 8147740402-8867844020-7353304503 - Website : www.cbgurukul.in

Heavy rain leads to leakage in KIA's new terminal

BIAL says there was leakage in the kerbside of the terminal; the area recorded 9.8 mm of rainfall

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Heavy rain on the evening of Tuesday resulted in leakage at the swanky new terminal of the Kempegowda International Airport.

KIA recorded 9.8 mm of rainfall during the day, and a Twitter user posted a video and pictures of water leaking from outside Terminal 2.

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the operator of the airport, confirmed that there was a leakage in the kerbside of the new terminal.

A view of Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport after heavy rain. TWITTER/@PRAGNALKRUPA

"A downpour on the evening of Tuesday caused leakage in the kerbside of Terminal 2 at BLR Airport. We acknowledge that a large and new infrastructure such as T2 will have teething problems which we are attending to. Our teams are being pressed into action to resolve all issues. At BLR Airport, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of infrastructure and safety at both our terminals," a BIAL spokesperson said. The 2,55,661-sq. m terminal was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 11 and became operational on January 15. The terminal was built at a cost of around ₹5,000 crore. The new terminal is located on the northeastern side of Terminal 1 and is designed by New York-based architectural firm SOM.

Go First flights grounded as airline suspends operations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

More than 20 flights of beleaguered airline Go First were grounded on Wednesday at the Kempegowda International Airport.

The airline, which has filed for bankruptcy with the National Company Law Tribunal and also suspended flights scheduled between May 3 and 5, operates between 20 and 25 flights daily from Bengaluru.

Mounting loss

However, with the suspension of flights due to mounting loss all its aircraft were grounded, said airport sources.

"On May 2, a few flights were cancelled. As announced by the airline there would be no flights between May 3 and 5. From Bengaluru, they operate between 20 and 25 flights per day," said airport sources. The cancellation of flights puts a spanner in the travel schedules of several passengers, who had booked their tickets with the airline.

Some of the passengers were seen arguing with the airline staff demanding that alternative arrangements be made and that their ticket money be refunded.

To be refunded

While announcing the cancellation of flights, the airline has said that it will refund the money to its passengers.

"We regret to inform that due to operational reasons, Go First flights scheduled for May 3, 4, and 5 May 2023 have been cancelled. We apologise for the inconvenience. A full refund will be issued through the original mode of payment shortly," the airline said on Tuesday.

Two more held over student's murder on university campus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bagalur police on Monday arrested two more engineering students in connection with the murder of a student during a college fest at Reva University on April 28.

The accused have been identified as Anil Kumar M., 20, from Bidarahalli, and Shrunga Mitra H.D., 19, of Mudigere taluk, Chikkamagaluru district.

According to the police, both are engineering students of the same college and have been irregular.

The accused, along with Bharatesh N.A., a second-year engineering student, stabbed Bhaskar Jetty H., 22, multiple times killing him on the spot over a trivial row during Revothsava-2023, the two-day college festival.

Student beaten up

In another case, the K.S. Layout police registered a case against two students for beating up another student at the parking lot of Dayanand Sagar College over a trivial row.

According to the police, the victim, Vikas Srinivas, had objected to his sister moving around with the accused Kishan and Yashwanth, and warned her to stay away from them.

The accused got to know about this and assaulted Vikas near his house, following which Vikas complained to the Puttenahalli police on April 15.

The accused again confronted Vikas on Tuesday while he was at the college parking lot for complaining against them and assaulted him with a wooden log and iron rod before fleeing the spot.

The victim managed to return home and got treated at the hospital before filing a complaint.

'Withdrawal of provisional RMP-2031 will not negate actions already taken as per that plan'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Merely because the provisional Revised Master Plan (RMP)-2031 for Bengaluru city was withdrawn by the State government, it would not negate all actions taken in pursuance of it, and the actions already taken as per the provisional RMP-2031 before withdrawal must be given due effect to, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Also, the court said the withdrawal of RMP-2031 would not make the earlier RMP-2015 applicable in place of the actions taken under the provisional RMP-2031.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj made these observations while allowing a petition filed by Bhavani Yellappa Palyagar and Maarq Spaces Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru.

On grant of OC

The petitioners had questioned the legality of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's August 22, 2022, communication rejecting their application for grant of Occupancy Certificate (OC) on completion of construction of an apartment complex.

The court directed the BBMP to grant OC by May 31, 2023, to the apartment complex provided that the construction is as per the sanctioned plan and in adherence to other applicable rules.

The BBMP itself on January 19, 2018, approved building plan of the petitioners for construction of the apartment complex on a land measuring one acre and 24 guntas of land in Doddakannahalli Village, Varthur Hobli in Bengaluru South taluk. The plan was approved in terms of the provisional RMP-2031, which was notified by the State government on November 23, 2017.

Later, the BBMP on February 28, 2019, granted certificate to the petitioners for commencement of works after the petitioners secured no-objection certificates from the other statutory bodies.

The petitioners, on completion constructions, on May 26, 2022, applied for grant of OC after obtaining consent from the other statutory bodies. However, to their shock, the BBMP on August 22, 2022, refused to grant OC stating that the State government on June 20, 2022, had withdrawn the provisional RMP-2031.

The BBMP had told the petitioners that provisions of the RMP-2015 comes back into force following the withdrawal of provisional RMP-2031 by the government, and the construction of apartment complex put up by the petitioners as per BBMP approved plan, amounts to "encroachment" of lands proposed for an 18 m road in the earlier plan, that is RMP-2015.

Bad in law

Holding that BBMP's decision not to grant OC is bad in law, the court said that the BBMP having allowed petitioners to put up construction by investing their monies cannot now deprive them of OC merely on account of the government withdrawing the provisional RMP-2031 when all the authorities had granted approvals on the basis of the RMP-2031.

The court also said that the provisional RMP-2031 was very much in force when the petitioners applied for grant of OC while noticing that there is no allegation against the petitioners that construction was put up illegally or without sanctioned plan or having deviated from the plan sanctioned.

CCB seizes e-cigarettes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cracking the whip on sale of e-cigarettes in and around the city, the Central Crime Branch officials on Wednesday raided a godown in Kumbarapete and arrested two people and recovered ₹1.2 crore worth e-cigarette and its products.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, M.SREENIVASAMURTHY, S/o. Late Munigangappa residing at No. 163/12, 10th Main Road, Srinagara, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560 050, do hereby notify to the general public; That the General Power of Attorney dated 04.03.2015 in favour of my brother M.Muniraju in relation to land bearing Sy.No.99/2, measuring 34 guntas, Beemana Kuppe Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, stands terminated. The same is also notified to M.Muniraju, vide notice dated 01.05.2023. General Public is hereby notified and cautioned not to transact or deal with M.Muniraju in relation to the property. No such transaction shall bind me or my right, title or interest in the property. Any person/s entering into any such transaction shall be liable for legal action. I further declare that the information furnished is true to the best of my knowledge and belief by Sworn before Advocate and Notary S N MADHU on 03.05.2023.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner **Mr.P.Kiran,** son of Sri. Prabhurajaiah, residing at #50, Sapta Khushi, Ward No.22, Shanthinagara, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District – 562110, he having acquired title to the same by Sale Deed dated 18.11.2005 registered as Document DBP-1-03588/2005-06, Book I, stored in CD No.DBPD62 at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Doddaballapura..

All persons having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of dry agricultural land bearing **Survey No.28/8** measuring **3 Acres 36 Guntas** excluding 3¼ Guntas of 'B' Kharab, situated at **Koluru Village,** Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded as follows:

East by : Cart Road and Survey No.27,
West by : Survey No.28/7,
North by : Survey No.28/3,
South by : Survey No.28/5.

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 03.05.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client has purchased the schedule property from its lawful owners **Sri B.A. Nagaraj,** S/o. B.V. Ashwathanarayanaiah and his two sons Vikram and Vishal and H. Yeshwanth Shenoy by registered Sale Deed dated 21-05-1998. After the Sale Deed the Khatha was transferred in the name of my client in the revenue records of Kothnur Gram Panchayath. Later the schedule property has fallen within the revenue jurisdiction of CMC Bommanahalli and at present BBMP. The Khatha is still standing in the name of my client **C.M. Shivadevappa.** My client is in possession and enjoyment of the schedule property ever since the date of Sale Deed. After the death of **B.A. Nagaraj,** his wife and children have fraudulently executed two registered Sale Deeds dated 04-09-2017 in favour of **K. Saritha and K. Prathap Reddy** (by bifurcating the schedule property into eastern portion and western portion) Later Smt. K. Saritha executed Gift Deed dated 03/05/2018 in favour of K. Prathap Reddy. Thereafter the Khatha was tranasferred in the name of K. Prathap Reddy in the records of BBMP.

Based on the fraudulent documents K. Prathap Reddy has filed O.S.No. 4152/2019 (CCH 42) before the City Civil Court Bangalore. My client has filed counter claim in the said suit. The same is still pending before the City Civil Court. This being the correct state of affairs, the said K. Prathap Reddy is trying to alienate the schedule property by suppressing the pendency of the above suit to the third parties. Hence the general public hereby informed by this notice that not to transact with K. Prathap Reddy in respect of the schedule property.

Inspite of this public notice any person or persons transact or purchased the schedule property from the said person in respect of the schedule property, they will not acquire any right, title or interest and they will lose the money. Hence, this notice.

SCHEDULE

All that the piece and parcel of Property Bearing No. 399, Khatha No. 1522/122, presently having BBMP Khatha No. 39955/1522/399, out of converted Sy.No. 122 vide order No. B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S) 418/88-89, dated 17-12-1992 from Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, situated at Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring **East to West 73.5 feet,** and **North to South 50 feet,** which is bounded on: **East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Property No. 398, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private Property.

M/s. R. RAMESH & ASSOCIATES
Advocates & Solicitors
No.14, SRR Building, 3rd Floor, 9th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore- 560002.
Mobile No.98453 96843
Place: Bangalore Date: 04/05/2023

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BENGALURU, B.S.N.L. BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJABHABAN ROAD, BENGALURU-560001.
O.A. NO. 1276/2022

Between:
CANARA BANK
Avenue Road Branch,
No. 110-115, Avenue Road,
Bengaluru-560002
By its Branch Manager.
Applicant

And :
M/s Komala Silk & Sarees, and others.
Defendants

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

WHEREAS, the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against you the above Defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.79,07,082.05 (Rupees Seventy Nine Lakhs Seven Thousand Eighty Two and Five Paisa Only)** jointly by the Defendants No. 1,2 and 3 together with interest at the rate of 12.9% p.a. thereon compounded monthly rests from the date of application till the date of realization or actual payment and other Reliefs. The Defendant No. 3 is therefore, hereby directd to appear before this tribunal in person or through your counsel or through authorized agents is support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **06-06-2023 at 10.30 A.M.,** as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in Case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this **2ndth day of May 2023.**

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/-
Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal - II,
Bengaluru.

To,
Smt. C. Kantha,
W/o, Sri. S.V. Chalapathy,
Aged about 45 years,
R/o, No.6, 1st Floor, Pillappa Lane,
3rd Cross, Nagarthpet Cross,
Bengaluru-560002.
Presently At,
No. 6, 3rd Floor, Pillappa Lane,
Nagarthpet, Bangalore-560002.
Defendant No. 3

Government of Maharashtra
Public Works Department P.W. Division, Panvel
Telephone No. 022-27452778
E- Tender Notice No. 12 (Open ONLINE)Year-2023-24
E-mail address:- panvel.ee@mahapwd.gov.in
Fax Number :-022-27467440

Executive Engineer P.W. Division Panvel invite B-1 Tender From Registered Contractor with Govt. of Maharashtra Detail Tender Notice Available On www.mahapwd.gov.in and www.mahatenders.gov.in Portal.

Note :- Total 06 Work include in Tender notice.

Online Tender Download & Bid Preparation Period Date 04.05.2023 At 10.00 AM To Date 18.05.2023 18.00 PM.

Online Tender Bid Preparation Last Date 18.05.2023 at 18.00 PM.

sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.W.Division
Panvel

DGIPR/2023/2024/528

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

Statutory Inquiry by Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS), Southern Circle, Bengaluru.

NOTIFICATION

Shri. A. M. Chowdhary, Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS), Southern Circle, Bengaluru under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt. of India, will hold statutory Inquiry at the Cauvery Meeting Hall **on the 4th Floor of BMRCL** Annex-1 Building, BMTC Complex, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027 commencing **from 10.00 hrs. on 3rd & 4th May 2023 in connection with "Occurrence of unusual incident at AP 218-Pier Cage reinforcement falling on the road during construction of elevated structures for Bangalore Metro Phase 2B on 10.01.2023".**

Any member of the public having knowledge relating to the incident and matters connected therewith and desiring to give evidence may do so at the above place on the dates of inquiry or may write to the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS), 2nd Floor, Rail Sanraksha Bhawan, Behind Divisional Railway Office, Bengaluru-560023 or fax/email to 080-22260650 / **crsscsbc@swr.railnet.gov.in**

TATA COFFEE LIMITED
CIN: L01131KA1943PLC000833
Registered Office: Pollibetta, Kodagu - 571215, Karnataka.
Corporate Office: No. 57, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560020.
Phone No.: 080 23560695-97, Fax No.: 080 2334 1843 ; E-mail : investors@tatacoffee.com ; Website: www.tatacoffee.com

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU BENCH
COMPANY PETITION NO. C. P. (CAA) 18/BB/2023
CONNECTED WITH
COMPANY APPLICATION NO. C. A. (CAA) 57/BB/2022

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;
And
In the matter of Petition under Sections 230-232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013,
And
In the matter of Composite Scheme of Arrangement amongst Tata Consumer Products Limited, Tata Coffee Limited and TCPL Beverages & Foods Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors.

Tata Coffee Limited, a public listed company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1913, and governed under the Companies Act, 2013 having CIN:L01131KA1943PLC000833, PAN: AABCC0241R, and having its registered office at Pollibetta, Kodagu – 571215, Karnataka
...Petitioner Company No. 1/Transferor Company
AND
TCPL Beverages & Foods Limited, a public unlisted company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 having CIN: U15400KA2022PLC158373, PAN: AAJCT2098P, and having its registered office at Kirloskar Business Park, Block C, 3rd and 4th Floor, New Airport Road, Hebbal, Bangalore - 560024
...Petitioner Company No. 2/ Resulting Company

NOTICE OF HEARING OF THE COMPANY PETITION FILED BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU BENCH

Pursuant to the directions given by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench ("**NCLT**"), by its order dated April 27, 2023, passed in the above Company Petition ("**Order**"), notice is hereby given that Company Petition No. C.P. (CAA) 18/BB/2023 connected with Company Application No. C.A. (CAA)57/BB/2022, seeking sanction from the Hon'ble NCLT to the Composite Scheme of Arrangement amongst Tata Coffee Limited ("**Petitioner Company No.1/Transferor Company**"), TCPL Beverages and Foods Limited ("**Petitioner Company No.2/Resulting Company**") and Tata Consumer Products Limited ("**TCPL**"), was filed by the Petitioner Companies abovenamed, on February 14, 2023 and the same was admitted by the Hon'ble NCLT on April 27, 2023. The Hon'ble NCLT has fixed the Company Petition for final hearing on June 9, 2023.

If any person concerned with the Petitioner Companies is desirous of supporting or opposing the said Company Petition, he/she/it should send to the Hon'ble Tribunal and to the Advocates of the Petitioner Companies, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas 3rd Floor, Prestige Falcon Tower, Brunton Road, Bengaluru – 560025, a notice of his/her/its intention, signed by him/her/it or his/her/its advocate, with his/her/its name and address, so as to reach the Hon'ble NCLT and the Advocates for the Petitioner Companies not later than 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Where such person concerned seeks to oppose the said Company Petition, the grounds of his/her/its opposition or a copy of the affidavit in that regard should be furnished with such notice.

A copy of the said Company Petition as was filed before the Hon'ble NCLT can be obtained from the below mentioned office address of the Petitioner Companies between 11:00 am and 01:00 pm on any working day (except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays) and not later than 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, by any person concerned requiring the same, on payment of applicable charges.

Contact Details of the Petitioner Companies are as follows:

a) Tata Coffee Limited : (CIN:L01131KA1943PLC000833), Registered office at Pollibetta, Kodagu,Karnataka – 571215
Email: investors@tatacoffee.com , Website: www.tatacoffee.com
b) TCPL Beverages & Foods Limited : (CIN: U15400KA2022PLC1583373), Registered office at Kirloskar Business Park, Block C, 3rd and 4th Floor, New Airport Road, Hebbal, Bangalore – 560024, Website: www.tataconsumer.com

For Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas
Advocates for the Petitioner Companies
Sharan A. Kukreja, KAR/2408/2010, Mob: +91 7022020508, 3rd Floor, Prestige Falcon Towers, 19, Brunton Road, Bengaluru – 560 025

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 3rd May 2023

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I Kishen Amarnath S/o G Amaranatha , residing at No 1631, 6th Main Road, Near East West School, E Block, 2 Stage, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560010, have changed my name to Kishen Amarnath Abhiyanta for all purposes in future

I Upendar Sah S/O, Late. keshwar Sah R/o Vill- Chakesho Po- Mahnar Teh - Mahnar Distt- Vaishali State - Bihar have changed my name to Upendra Sah for all purposes.

I, GHUFRAN Sharief, S/o Rizwan Sharief, R/at No.17, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Muddamma Garden, Benson Town, Bangalore-560046 have changed my name from Ghufran Sharief to Ghufran Shariff vide affidavit dated 02-05-2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

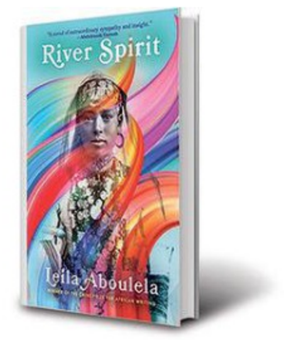
I, SHAHAAN Sharief, S/o Rizwan Sharief, R/at No.17, 2nd Cross, Muddamma Garden, Benson Town, Bangalore-560046 have changed my name from Shahaan Sharief to Shahaan Shariff vide affidavit dated 02-05-2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

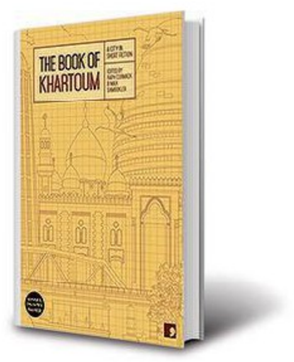
EDUCATIONAL

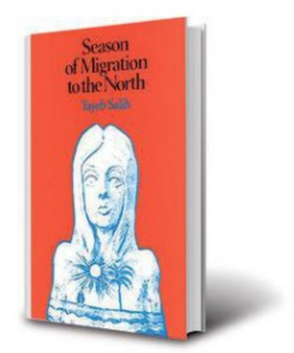
GENERAL

UPSC - IAS
ECONOMICS
(OPTIONAL)
Ravindra N. Jha
BATCH - 1 01st JUNE, 2023
BATCH - 2 20th JUNE, 2023
ADMISSION OPEN
TEST SERIES 11th JUNE, 2023
ONLINE / OFFLINE
BLISS POINT STUDIES
57/17, 1ST FLOOR NEAR HDFC BANK OLD RAJENDER NAGAR, DELHI-110060
9811343411, 9811343464, 9811343938, 011-45076221

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Unrest: Smoke billows during fighting in Khartoum on May 3. AFP

Geography as character: writers trace Sudan's contradictory, complex history

Even before the latest flare-up, the third largest country in Africa has been pulled in different directions, with its capital Khartoum being both a place of refuge and a site of violence. Writers try to find a voice through the chaos to make sense of a diverse nation

Sudipta Datta

The United Nations is calling it a "turbulent transition" to civilian rule. After an agreement, facilitated by the UN, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, was signed in December 2022 between the military and political stakeholders in Sudan to put in place a democratic government, peace was shattered when fresh fighting broke out in mid-April.

The violent clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces, led by Lieutenant General Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces, led by Lieutenant General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, have left hundreds dead and thousands injured. Many have had to flee Sudan's borders – the Indian government has launched Operation Kaveri to rescue stranded citizens from capital Khartoum and elsewhere.

A turbulent nation

The latest conflagration comes at the worst time possible, with Sudan facing an acute humanitarian crisis. The UN estimates that 15.8 million people, which is about a third of its total population of 48 million, requires assistance of food, water and essential medicines. Things have not run smoothly for the third largest country in Africa. It shed its colonial past in the 1950s after independence, but conflicts between its diverse populations followed as well as a long civil war. South Sudan finally broke away in 2011, but peace has been elusive.

It's a country pulled in different directions, and its writers have tried to make sense of the past, present and prospects of a better future through their fiction. A good place to start is Tayeb Salih's 1966 novel, *Season of Migration to the North*, hailed as one of the finest novels to be written in modern Arabic literature. Edward Said thought Salih's book reversed the trajectory of Joseph Conrad's controversial novel of Empire, *Heart of Darkness*, with the main character, Mustafa Sa'eed, travelling north to the heart of colonial power, London, and witnessing first hand a British nightmare. In Conrad's novel, the white protagonist travels south from Europe to the Congo, with dreams of civilising the people.

Translated by Denys Johnson- Davies, *Season of Migration* begins with the narrator stating that he has returned to his village, at the bend of the Nile, after getting a doctorate in Britain. Back home, he listens intently to the wind, "which in our village possessed a merry whispering – the sound of the wind passing through palm trees is different from when it passes through fields of corn." Things begin unravelling at home, and realisation dawns on Mustafa Sa'eed about the challenges facing his people. Introducing the novel, Wail Hassan writes, "His fictional village of Wad Hamid in northern Sudan represents the complexities of that location: situated between the fertile Nile valley and the desert, inhabited by peasants but a frequent stop for nomadic tribes, it is a meeting place for several cultures."

A fragmented nation

In 2016, Raph Cormack and Max Shmookler edited *The Book of Khartoum* and put the city in perspective: "Khartoum sits across the three banks of the river, where the White Nile meets the Blue. Its geography serves as an apt metaphor for its complex, at times contradictory, significance to many generations of modern Sudanese authors." The city, they write, was founded in 1821 by invading Turco-Egyptian forces. From the Mahdist rebellion that began in 1881, to the independence of Sudan in 1956, the secession of South Sudan in 2011, Khartoum "has served as a centre stage for the struggle over the identity of a fragmented nation and a volatile state." Cormack and Shmookler picked ten short stories in which the city "emerges as a place of refuge, an object of nostalgia, a site of violence, and a muse for the literary imagination."

Because of layers of migration, language, social and cultural clashes, Khartoum remains a site of "conflicted cosmopolitanism". The stories in *The Book of Khartoum* pick up where *Season of Migration* left off, bringing tales of "a post-colonial world shaped by conflicting aspirations and daunting obstacles." The disappointment of a big city experience is brought out evocatively in Ali al-Makk's 'In the City', and Bawadir Bashir's 'Next Eid', in which a young boy moves to Khartoum to go to university and becomes the envy of his village but only he knows that his life is not what his family imagines it to be.

The first story in the collection, Ahmed al-Malik's 'The Tank', translated by Adam Talib, is a dark comedy about a father who buys a tank from a middleman and parks it under the neem tree outside his home. He soon noticed that the quality of services improving markedly – the butcher sent home the best cuts; power cuts stopped; water supply wasn't shut off. How he came to acquire the tank is another story.

A Sudanese writer who has been chronicling the inner lives of Muslim women and exploring questions of identity, migration and Islamic spirituality is Leila Aboulela, the first-ever winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing. She is the author of six novels, and her latest, *River Spirit* (2023), is the coming-of-age story of a young woman, Akuany, for whom "the river was her language", during the Mahdist war in 19th century Sudan. In her new book, Aboulela narrates the complicated history of her country, particularly what happened in pre-colonial times when Sudan began to slip from the grasp of Ottoman rule and everyone had to pick a side.

As people of Sudan know, they are still having to choose sides.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

May 4 is observed as 'Star Wars Day' thanks to a pun on the franchise's most famous phrase 'May the Force Be With You'. A quiz on the original trilogy of Episodes IV to VI

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Which of the iconic characters was the first to speak in the first film of the franchise, released in 1977, with the line being "Did you hear that?"

QUESTION 2
According to Han Solo, in how many parsecs did the Millennium Falcon make the Kessel Run?

QUESTION 3
What was the profession of Luke's uncle Owen Lars on Tatooine?

QUESTION 4
Which character was played on screen by Peter Mayhew and what was the character's mother tongue?

QUESTION 5
According to the canon, how old is Yoda when he starts training Luke on Dagobah?

QUESTION 6
Fill in the blank to get the full name of an eminent character in the series: _____ Desilijic Tiure.

QUESTION 7
Name the Akira Kurosawa flick that was a major inspiration for the plot of Star Wars.

QUESTION 8
Which film in the trilogy was shot under the production title 'Blue Harvest'?

Visual question:
Identify him and his biggest contribution to the Star Wars legend. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Margaret Thatcher was known by this nickname. This actor played the role of Thatcher in a 2011 biographical drama film. **Ans: Iron Lady; Meryl Streep**
2. This horse is used in the Kentucky Derby race. The race takes place at this time of the year. **Ans: Thoroughbred; it is organised usually on the first Saturday in May**
3. This book by Margaret Mitchell won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction on May 3, 1937. **Ans: *Gone with the Wind***
4. This actor won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1944 and this person sung the song "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?". **Ans: Bing Crosby, Pete Seeger**
5. This Indian film is considered the first full-length Indian feature film. **Ans: *Raja Harishchandra* by Dadasaheb Phalke (the year was misprinted as 2013; the film was released on May 3, 1913)**
Visual: Identify this actor and the show he is associated with. **Ans: Larry Hagman in *Dallas***
Early Birds: Yogita Meena| Parikshit Chauhan| Indra Sharma| K. N. Viswanathan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. Guhakripa of Trivandrum wants to know whether 'beautifully' is correctly used in the sentence 'He responded to the treatment beautifully'."

"The sentence is correct. When used colloquially, 'beautifully' means 'excellently' 'in a superb manner'.

He batted beautifully.

He spoke beautifully at the conference.

'That will do beautifully' is used in conversion to mean 'That will be most satisfactory'."

"Mr. G. John Berchmans, Sub-Postmaster, Yalal, wants to know the difference between 'friend' and 'comrade'."

" 'Friend' is from Germanic frijojan which means 'to love'. This is related to Sanskrit 'priya'. A friend is one whom you like immensely. 'Comrade' is from Spanish 'camarade' which means 'room-mate'. Camera means 'room'. Originally, a person who shared a 'camara' with you was called a comrade and the word had the warmth of the word 'friend'. Now it no longer has that connotation. Now it means 'a fellow in work or play', 'fellow socialist, communist'. These days 'comrade' is mostly used to mean a fellow communist or a socialist. It is used as a prefix to the surname and Mr. is not used after it. Comrade X and not Comrade Mr. X."

"Mr. Ahmad Sayeed Khan, Semi-Professional, Centre of West Asian Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, wants to know the meaning of 'blooming Kaboodle'!"

"It isn't 'Kaboodle' but 'Caboodle', the 'c' is pronounced 'k'. 'Caboodle'. It is slang for 'collection', 'lot'. It is generally used with 'whole'. 'You must sell the whole caboodle' means 'You must sell the entire lot'. 'She had more soul than the whole caboodle of them put together'. 'Blooming' like 'bloody' is slang and is used to express strong feelings.

He is a blooming idiot.

It was a blooming shame."

"Miss PP Teja, 6A, H Siddiah Road, Bangalore-2, wants to know the pronunciation of the word 'educate'."

" 'e' is pronounced like the 'e' in 'bed', 'u' is pronounced like the 'u' in 'due' 'hue', 'c' is pronounced 'k'. 'cate' rhymes with 'state'. Some pronounce the 'd' in the word like the 'j' in 'June'. This is also acceptable, edyookeishn, ejyookeishn. The stress is on the first syllable."

Published in The Hindu on November 24, 1987

Word of the day

Faux pas:
a socially awkward or tactless act

Synonyms: slip, gaucherie, gaffe, solecism

Usage: *His faux pas was, thankfully, not taken very seriously by the management.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/fauxpaspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fəʊ pɑː/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Young voters: Belagavi dist. has the highest enrolment

Of the total 11.71 lakh young voters, 5.26 lakh are female and 181 are in the 'Others' category

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Enrolment of young voters in the State has seen a huge jump in the last four months. From 7.01 lakh in the final electoral rolls published on January 5, the number of young voters has increased by 4.7 lakh. In 2018, the number of youth voters was 8.24 lakh.

Of the total 11.71 lakh young voters, 5.26 lakh are women and 181 are in the "Others'' category. The highest enrolment is in Belagavi district at 94,652. Bengaluru Urban follows with 61,602. The lowest enrolment is from Kodagu at 9,428, according to data from the Election Commission.

In at least 15 Assembly constituencies, the number of young voters is ranging between seven to 12,000 with the highest in Yeshwantpur (12,012) followed by Bengaluru South (9,986) and Byatarayanpura (9,304). The lowest enrolment is in C.V. Raman Nagar at 2,597 followed by Jayanagar at 2,666.

Centenarians an inspiration?

After introducing the 'vote from home' facility for people aged above 80 and persons with disabilities (PwDs), the EC is now using this experiment as a 'motivational tool' to bring young voters to the polling booths.

To attract the first-time young voters, selfie stands displaying election dates and logos have been put up in all polling booths.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Districts with highest enrolment of young voters
Belagavi: **94,652**
Bengaluru Urban: **61,602**
Mysuru: **58,461**
Tumakuru: **50,131**
Vijayapura: **42,944**
Constituencies with highest enrolment of young voters
Yeshwantpur : **12,012**
Bengaluru South: **9,986**
Byatarayanapura: **9,304**
Ballari City: **8,430**
Yelahanka : **8,376**

The 'vote from home' exercise has seen a good response and 49,797 persons of the total 99,529 who opted for this facility have exercised their franchise so far. On Monday, 763 teams covered 763 routes facilitating home voting of 19,335 eligible persons across the State.

While the EC has not nominated any icon, specifically to motivate young voters, officials said various programmes such as Electhon, hackathon and awareness through electoral literacy clubs were organised to encourage young voters to vote.

Selfie stands

P.S. Vastrad, State nodal officer for Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program (SVEEP) said to attract the first-time young voters, selfie stands displaying election dates and logos have been put up in all polling booths. "Young voters, especially first-time voters are all the more excited to cast their vote and we are hoping they will be inspired by the centenarians, who are exercising their franchise at their homes," he said.

Calling upon young voters to not miss voting, Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka, said election is an opportunity for people to take part in the formation of the government that chalks out policies for the next five years. "All young voters should take it upon themselves to participate in this festival of democracy and express their choices in forming the government," he said.

Enrolment 4 times a year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Previously, during the annual revisions of electoral rolls, only persons who have completed 18 years were allowed to register themselves as voters. Now, those who have crossed 17 years can submit applications in advance to get enrolled. There are four qualifying dates for enrolment – January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Youngsters who have completed 17 can submit application for inclusion of names.

Senior citizens say pomp and show trump personal campaigning now

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

"A couple of decades ago, we used to be very aware of who our candidates were. We used to have direct interactions with them. From ensuring that we had enrolled to vote and helping us get to the polling stations on the election day, the candidates and the party workers would be involved in the election process. There were instances when winning candidates had even brought sweets to our home after the results were out," recalled Pushpa T.R., a 64-year-old retired BSNL employee, from Sahakarnagar.

Like Ms. Pushpa, several other senior citizens in Bengaluru, who have seen the rise and fall of political leaders and parties for decades, feel that the interpersonal connection that political candidates used to maintain with citizens is absent today.

These citizens took a walk down memory lane, remembering how the voters' demands, the nature of campaigns, and other aspects related to the polls were different during the yesteryears.

"Earlier, most of the MLA or MP candidates were personally known to the voters. They were seen in the constituency very frequently. The faith of voters in the candidates was built through years of interaction. The person who was actively involved with the common voters always gained the confidence of the voter," said V.M. Girija, a 73-year-old resident of Jalahalli.

A file photo of a senior citizen signing up for 'vote-from-home' facility in Mysuru. Many senior citizens in Bengaluru feel that the inter-personal connection that political candidates used to maintain with citizens is absent today.

Development of public utilities used to take the lead in the criteria to consider before voting for a particular candidate. "A few decades ago, we used to vote for betterment of the community that we lived in. Better roads and infrastructure like parks, health centres, and such amenities were our primary demands. Now, things have improved, but there is room for some more improvement in certain areas," said Srinarasimhaiah, a senior citizen from Jayanagar.

The 90-year-old said that he cannot even remember how many elections he has voted in so far and said that voting is still very important to him as it gives him the power to elect his leaders based on past work, their activeness, and their genuineness.

How has it changed?

"There were no roadshows back then. Party workers used to go around the constituency with megaphones attached to autorickshaws. We used to receive pamphlets with every party's manifesto. Door-to-door campaigns were very common for the workers, and it would give us an opportunity to even understand the background of the candidates. There used to be a commitment from the leaders, now it is only pomp and show. Back then, elections were the seasons of celebrations, and now it seems like war time," Ms. Pushpa said.

Senior citizens acknowledged that despite the missing inter-personal connections, in the age of social media, it is difficult for leaders to hide their mistakes. They added that the younger generations should make use of all the information and education they have before casting their vote for a better society.

"The main difference I can see between then and now is the accessibility of social media. Anything and everything, whether it's good or bad, people will come to know in a fraction of a second. Both political parties and voters are aware of it. Those who are privileged with this information can take a wise decision quite easily," Ms. Girija noted.

Jain University skit controversy: Govt. issues 3rd notice to DCE seeking report

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

In the notice, the Under Secretary of Higher Education Department has expressed displeasure on non-submission of report by Commissioner of Collegiate and Technical Education

Karnataka's Department of Higher Education (DHE) has issued a notice to the Commissioner of Collegiate and Technical Education seeking a detailed report on the controversial skit related to B.R. Ambedkar that was enacted by students of Jain (Deemed-to-be) University in Bengaluru in February 2023.

This is the third notice issued by the DHE to the Commissioner of Collegiate and Technical Education. Earlier, the department served notices on February 28 and March 23.

In the latest notice, Nandakumar B., Under Secretary of the Higher Education Department (Universities-2), expressed his displeasure on non-submission of the report.

"It is regrettable that Jain (Deemed-to-be) University students staged a derogatory skit on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It was earlier told to submit a comprehensive report to the government within a week. However, the information/ report requested has not been received by the government till date. Therefore, considering the seriousness of the case, I am once again directing the requested information to be submitted to the government immediately," he stated in the notice.

A skit enacted by students of Jain (Deemed-to-be) University, Bengaluru, had turned controversial for allegedly containing casteist dialogues and 'employing a mocking tone' while referring to Dalits. The video clip of the skit had gone viral on social media. The skit was staged on February 6 by students of Centre for Management Studies (CMS) at Jain University Youth Fest 2023.

A member of Vanchit Bahujan Yuva Aghadi filed a complaint with the Nanded police in Maharashtra. The Social Welfare Department and Dalit organisations in Bengaluru lodged multiple complaints against the students and the institution under Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Siddapura police arrested 9 persons, including 7 students, who staged the controversial skit, the dean of the college and the chief programme coordinator of Jain (deemed-to-be) University.

The university suspended six students, tendered an unconditional apology and promised an internal inquiry and disciplinary action. Minister for Higher and Technical Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan had promised necessary against the university and sought a detailed report from the university and the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 04	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:35
RISE 17:29	SET 04:48
FRIDAY, MAY. 05	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:35
RISE 18:21	SET 05:28
SATURDAY, MAY. 06	
RISE 05:57	SET 18:35
RISE 19:19	SET 06:11

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	26
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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Trio caught selling hashish oil at Silk Board junction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Madivala police on Sunday busted an inter-State drug racket and arrested three people selling hashish oil at the busy Silk Board Junction on Sunday.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police arrested the accused identified as Jayaram Khila, 35, and his associates Arjun Kirshani, 41, and Kesha Arlab, 35, near the BMTC bus stop while they were selling the drugs to their customers.

The police recovered 1.5 kg of hasish oil worth ₹1.53 crore and 1.14 kg of marijuana worth ₹32,000 from them.

From Odisha

The accused had sourced the drugs from Odisha and brought it to the city by road. They were selling it to their customers at the busy junction.

The accused have been booked under NDPS Act and taken into custody for further investigation.

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Candidates showcase the relief work they did during COVID-19 pandemic

Those who have helped people get hospital beds, oxygenators, and food kits during tough times seem to have earned tremendous goodwill, while there is also a severe anti-incumbency sentiment against those who were found wanting in their response to the crisis

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

FOCUS BENGALURU

Our entire family got COVID-19 in 2021 at the peak of the second wave of the pandemic, and hospital beds were not easily available. Our MLA came to our rescue and ensured all of us got hospital beds and, till then, oxygenators on hire at home. But for his timely help, some of us wouldn't have been alive today. We will never forget this in our lives," said Ambujakshi Prasad, a resident of one of the constituencies in North Bengaluru.

A file photo of people who had gathered at Bangarappa Layout in Bengaluru to collect food kits, masks, sanitisers etc,. during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Such stories are galore in the run-up to the elections. Almost every incumbent MLA and many candidates have distributed pamphlets with detailed accounts of how they carried out relief work during the pandemic.

While those who have helped people get hospital beds, oxygenators, and food kits during tough times seem to have earned tremendous goodwill, there is also a severe anti-incumbency sentiment against those who were found wanting in their response to the crisis.

Food kits

R.R. Nagar by-polls in November 2020 was the only one that was held post-pandemic in the city. Congress defector Munirathna, who contested on a BJP ticket, reportedly got a big fillip due to the "personal aid" he had provided to several low-income group pockets in his constituency. He reportedly provided food kits for nearly five months to thousands of households in the Laggere belt.

This was an early indicator that a candidate's work during the pandemic could win him the approval of the voters, a senior city MLA said, adding this motivated several others including ticket aspirants to take up pandemic aid campaigns.

However, the opposition Congress alleged that Munirathna and other ruling party BJP MLAs distributed the State government's aid, branding it as their own.

"Most of the BJP MLAs distributed State government's aid in their name, and they were exposed during the pandemic only in R.R. Nagar, K.R. Puram and Mahadevapura, apart from other constituencies," said senior Congress MLA Ramalinga Reddy, claiming most of the opposition MLAs did it out of their own pockets and people valued that more.

However, BJP MLA Satish Reddy said he was getting a good response to his COVID-19 relief efforts. "The quality of response and commitment of voters who have received some help during the pandemic is very overwhelming. I am sure others are also having a similar experience," he said.

Oxymitra campaign

Mohan Dasari, Aam Aadmi Party candidate from C.V. Raman Nagar, said the party's innovative Oxymitra campaign, where armed with oximeters, party workers had tested oxygen saturation levels of people in slum pockets and helped hospitalise people with lower levels, had stood them in good stead during this election. "People remember that we were the only ones who went and helped people whom most of the MLAs and political parties had forgotten," he said.

However, it is working both ways. There is also anger against several incumbent MLAs, as people also complain they were of little help.

"How much ever we do as MLAs, there is a severe limitation, and we wouldn't have been able to ensure that no citizen faced hardship. So there is some anger in some pockets, in households that faced hard times during the pandemic. We hope people also understand that we have our own limitations. Finally, it is the government which has to be held accountable," Congress MLA Ramalinga Reddy said.

INBRIEF

Water Adalat to be held today

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board will hold Water Adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in various parts across the city to address the issues related to water billing, delay in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delay in converting from domestic connection to non-domestic connection and other related problems. According to a BWSSB release, the adalat will be held at East 1-1, East 2-1, South East 1, South East 4, West 1-1, West 2-1, North West 1, North West 3, Central 1-1, North East 1, and North 1-1 sub-divisions.

Anti-rabies vaccination camp

Karuna Animal Welfare Association of Karnataka is organising a free anti-rabies vaccination camp from May 5 to 7 on its premises on Kasturba Road, Cubbon Park, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For details, call 080-23511329 or 23411181 for details.

Pension Adalat for Telecom and BSNL pensioners

Office of the Controller of Communication Accounts, Department of Telecommunications, Karnataka Circle, Bangalore, will be conducting the National Pension Adalat for Telecom/BSNL pensioners on May 17, through video conference. Pensioners/family pensioners who have retired from the Department of Telecommunication / BSNL, Karnataka Circle, having any grievance relating to pension may submit their representations by May 4 by post to O/o the Controller of Communication Accounts, Karnataka Circle, Bangalore, 560001, with full PPO details or mail to jtcca2.ka-dot@gov.in. Cases involving legal or succession issues and policy matters will not be entertained. Schedule and venue of the adalat will be intimated directly to each applicant in due course, a release stated.

A battle of prestige for BJP and Congress in C.V. Raman Nagar and Shantinagar segments

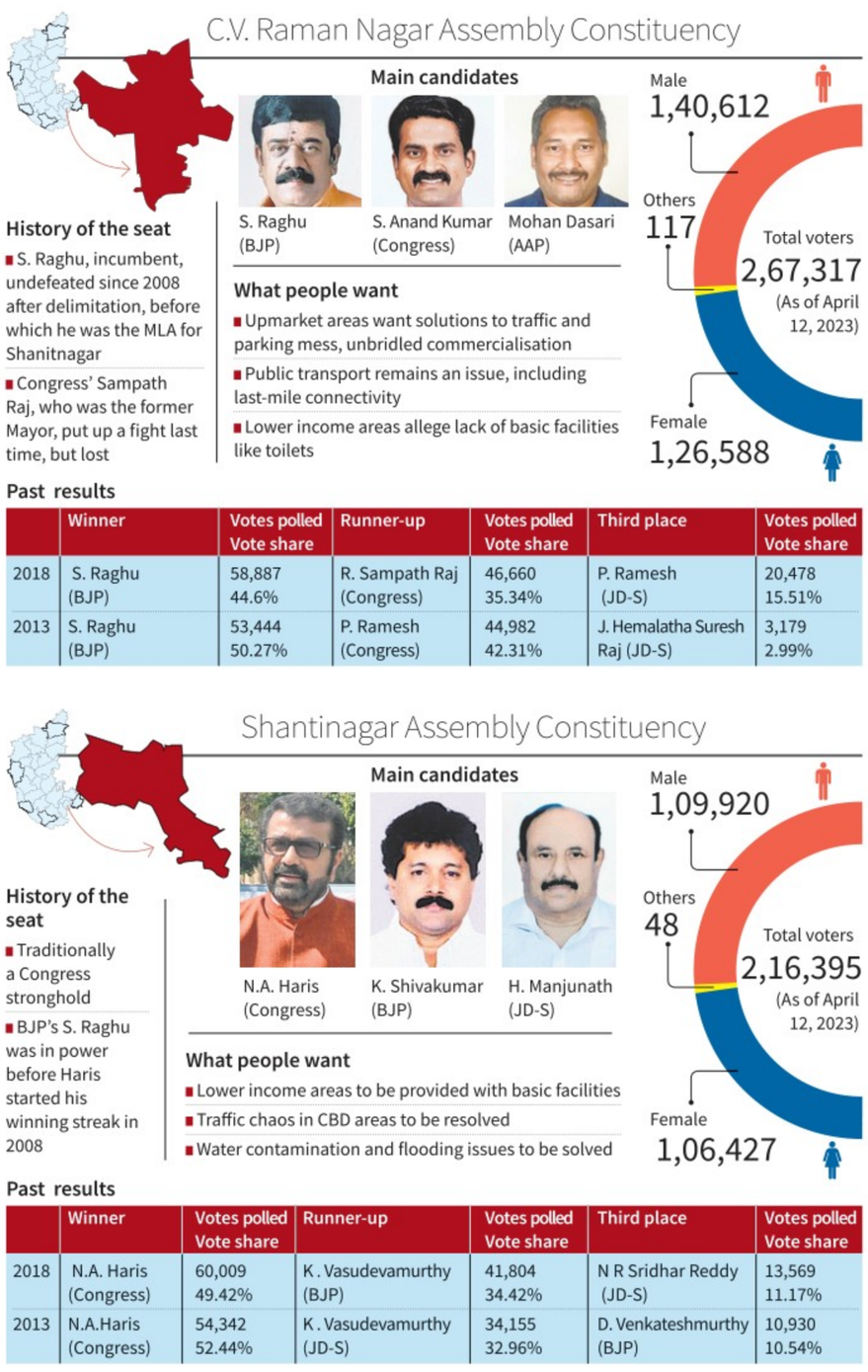
K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

The story of C.V. Raman Nagar and Shantinagar constituencies is representative of all that the city is – the constant conflict between new and old, residential and commercial. The two prime constituencies, spread over central and east Bengaluru, also happen to be a battle of prestige for both the BJP and the Congress, with its MLAs having won the constituencies in consecutive elections since 2008.

Encompassing areas around HAL Airport Road, Old Madras Road and everything in between, including high-end Indiranagar, Bagmane Tech Park and a large PSU belt, C.V. Raman Nagar – transitioning from a serene, cosmopolitan belt to hosting Bengaluru's new-age story of an IT and pub-rich city – has brought in both recognition as well as a multitude of problems that have cropped up because the existing infrastructure simply hasn't been able to cope with the rapid changes.

Indiranagar, for example, has for long been a battlefield of long-time residents who are up in arms against the new commercial establishments, many of which, they allege, are part of the illegal commercialisation of residential areas. The problem is also creeping into areas beyond it, including New Thippasandra and Jeevan Bima Nagar. Its popularity has become its bane, they say, ushering in unmanageable traffic and parking woes, among other problems.

Major infrastructure interventions have been able to solve only half the problems; for instance, despite being on the first stretch of the metro launched in the city, to this day, last-mile connectivity to most areas remains an unresolved problem. The tiresome wait for the completion of the white-topping project, along with the lack of resolution to put an end to long-pending problems and conflicts, will be the major challenges for the incumbent S. Raghu, who has won from the constituency thrice.



	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	S. Raghu (BJP)	58,887 44.6%	R. Sampath Raj (Congress)	46,660 35.34%	P. Ramesh (JD-S)	20,478 15.51%
2013	S. Raghu (BJP)	53,444 50.27%	P. Ramesh (Congress)	44,982 42.31%	J. Hemalatha Suresh Raj (JD-S)	3,179 2.99%

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	N.A. Haris (Congress)	60,009 49.42%	K. Vasudevamurthy (BJP)	41,804 34.42%	N R Sridhar Reddy (JD-S)	13,569 11.17%
2013	N.A.Haris (Congress)	54,342 52.44%	K. Vasudevamurthy (JD-S)	34,155 32.96%	D. Venkateshmurthy (BJP)	10,930 10.54%

Campaign for change

Former Hoysalanagar councillor S. Anand Kumar, then an independent, is challenging the incumbent BJP MLA from the Congress. Asked what his chances at winning are, he said, "Yes, he is a three-time MLA, but he is not accessible to people except during elections. People want change. Representing the Congress is only going to better my chances."

The AAP's Mohan Dasari, who had contested from the same constituency the last time too, alleged that an "illegal alliance" between the BJP and the Congress was the only reason why many incumbent MLAs were winning multiple times.

Woes in Shantinagar

Meanwhile, parts of Indiranagar, Cambridge Layout, Domlur and large parts of Central Bengaluru, including Richmond Road and areas such as Viveknagar and Neelasandra, fall under the Shantinagar constituency. Here too, it is a sharp divide between some of the swankiest parts of Bengaluru to low-income areas that lack the very basic amenities.

Apart from the conspicuous problems of traffic and parking, residents complain about civic issues like the flooding of roads during heavy rain, leaks in sewers and contamination of drinking water.

Neha Aiyappa, a resident of Shantinagar, said, "BBMP and BWSSB officials have ignored our constant reminders of contaminated water and waterlogging issues. Apart from this, traffic snarls have been increasing day by day since the constituency comes into the Central Business District (CBD), and the MLA and traffic police have not taken any initiative to overcome them."

K. Shivakumar, a two-time councillor from two wards here, is the BJP's candidate and said he is confident of winning as a sample survey done by them showed that people are unhappy with the incumbent MLA N.A. Haris. "Even some Congress workers have left and joined us. Even though he has been in power for 15 years, various issues like hakku patra distribution, development of hospitals and schools and the slums here have not been resolved," he said.

Incumbent confident

Mr. Haris, meanwhile, is confident of a fourth term. "People have decided and are extending their support. I have been sincere and committed in my work. I'm connected with my people, and in 15 years, I know a majority of the people in my constituency. There are challenges. This constituency is thickly populated, and the richest and the poorest live here, and their demands are very different. Basic amenities like drinking water, sanitary, roads, and housing are big issues. There are more things to be done, which I will as my party will come to power this time," he said.

Modi to undertake a mega 8-hour roadshow covering 36.6 km in city on Saturday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a mega roadshow titled "Karnataka Yatre" in Bengaluru on May 6, covering 36.6 km in eight hours. The roadshow will cover 17 Assembly constituencies of the total 28 in Bengaluru city.

Disclosing this to media persons in Bengaluru on Wednesday, Bengaluru Central MP P.C. Mohan said the Prime Minister would cover 10.1 km from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and another 26.5 km from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on that day.

According to him, the party is expecting a turnout of over 10 lakh people for the mega road show.

'No inconvenience'

Mr. Mohan maintained that measures had been taken to ensure that the general public was not put to inconvenience by discussing with police and other authorities concerned.

The roadshow that begins from Suranjan Das Road near HAL will pass through Mahadevapura, K.R. Puram, C.V. Raman Nagar, Shanthinagar and Shivajinagar Assembly constituencies till 1 p.m.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

He will cover 10.1 km from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and another 26.5 km from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on that day

In the evening, the roadshow would cover Bengaluru South, Bommanahalli, Jayanagar, Padmanabhanagar, Basavanagudi, Chickpet, Chamarajpet, Gandhinagar, Vijayanagar, Govindarajanagar, Rajajinagar, Mahalaxmi Layout and Malleswhwaram constituencies, he said.

According to the original schedule, the Prime Minister was to take out the roadshow in Bengaluru central area on May 7. However, the schedule was revised.

It is being said that a mega roadshow was preferred as the party strategists felt that roadshows were becoming more effective because of proximity to voters.

Mr. Mohan said people from across the State would participate in the proposed roadshow, which is the first of its kind in terms of its coverage. He said the Prime Minister was holding the roadshow mainly to thank the people of Karnataka for their trust in him for the last nine years.

'Festive occasion'

Speaking on the occasion, BJP BJP Yuva Morcha National President and MP Tejaswi Surya said it was a festive occasion as the Prime Minister was coming near the doorsteps of people of Bengaluru.

He said the Modi government had contributed to the development of Bengaluru by providing clearances for works related to the suburban train, Satellite Ring Road, the extension of metro rail network, giving 1,500 electrical buses, the second terminal of Kempegowda International Airport, encouraging start-ups and unicorns, construction of 40,000 houses under the PM Awas Yojana among others.

31-year-old delivery executive arrested for peddling drugs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Anti-Narcotics Wing officials of the CCB caught a 31-year-old delivery executive working as a mule for drug peddlers to earn extra income.

Based on a tip-off, a team of police raided the house of Jantu Mondal in Adugodi and recovered four kg of marijuana worth ₹5 lakh which the accused had concealed in a packet and kept in the attic of his house. Mondal told the officials that he was working as a delivery executive and ganged up with peddlers to deliver drugs as he was promised ₹1,000 per delivery.

Four kg of marijuana worth ₹5 lakh has been recovered

The accused would send him the location and the quantity of the drugs based on which Mondal would deliver. This according to him would avoid undue attention from the police.

Based on his confession, the officials registered a case against him under NDPS Act and efforts are on to track down the peddlers identified as Rajan and Murali who are presently on the run.

MAJESTIC
080-22356881

GANGA NAGARA
88671 66966

R.R.NAGARA
88670 86729

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'38 candidates contesting in Bengaluru have cases against them'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Out of 115 candidates contesting from 27 Bengaluru Urban constituencies, 38 have criminal cases against them, according to a report released by BPAC and DAKSH, two civil societies. The report has considered candidates from the BJP, the Congress, the JD(S), and the AAP, along with a select few independent parties for its analysis.

While 11 such candidates are from BJP, 10 from Congress, nine are from AAP, five from JD(S), and three from other parties. While three candidates have murder, culpable homicide or death by negligence cases against them, seven candidates have rioting cases and two have money laundering cases against them. The highest number of candidates, 17, have been charged with unlawful assembly.

"We want to bring greater awareness among citizens about criminal cases against the contesting candidates. This exercise is primarily aimed at educating the voter about the criminal antecedents of each candidate and we have also gone deeper to show what type of cases have been filed so citizens can make intelligent choices. We hope that citizens, using the power of their ballot, ensure that no politician with serious criminal background gets elected," said Revathy Ashok, CEO, BPAC.

Average assets of Congress candidates worth ₹49.83 crore and that of BJP candidates ₹39.41 crore: Report

With assets worth ₹1,633 crore, Independent candidate Yousuf Shariff tops the list of those with highest declared assets

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The number of candidates who have declared their assets to be over a crore has increased across parties between the 2018 elections and 2023 elections in Karnataka, according to the report released by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) on Wednesday. While 96% of BJP candidates are crorepatis, the share is 97% in the Congress, and 82% in the JD(S).

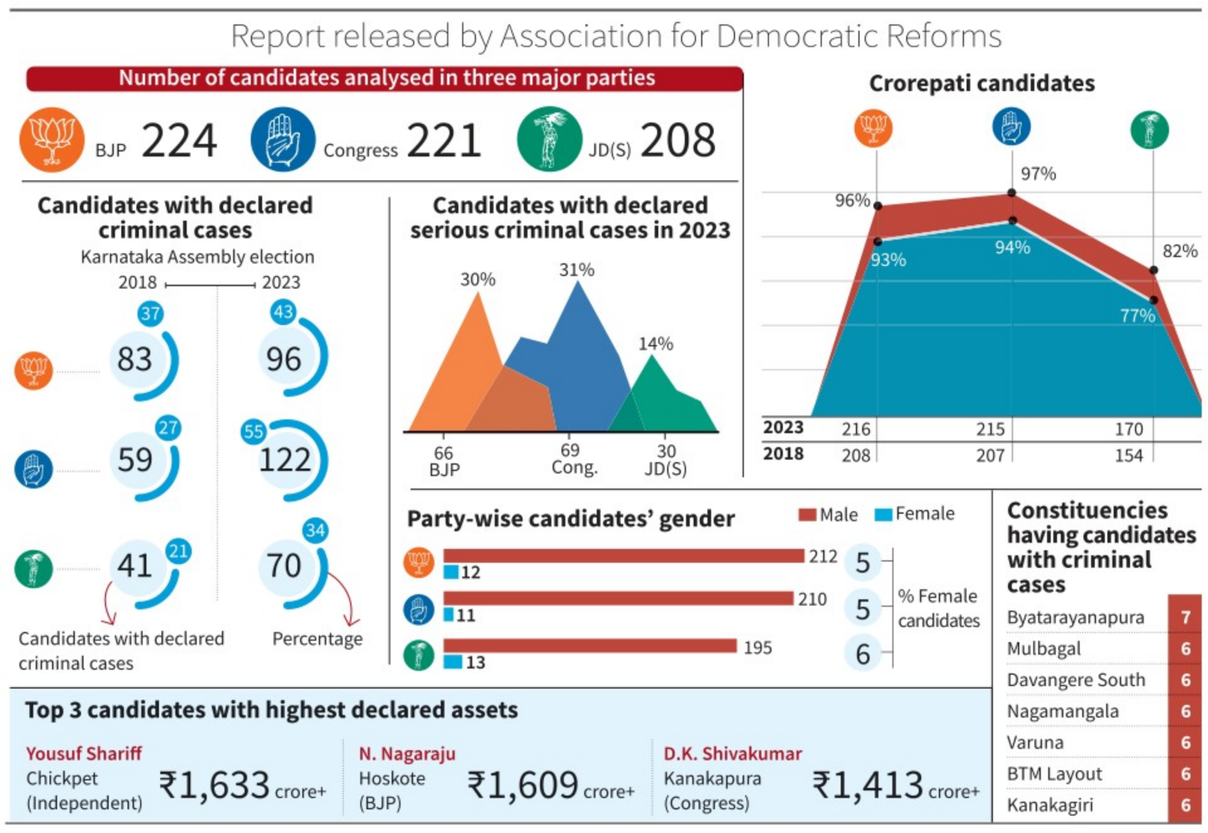
"Out of the 2,586 candidates analysed, 1,087 (42%) are crorepatis. In 2018 Assembly Elections, out of 2,560 candidates, 883 (35%) were crorepatis," the report said. Further, the report said that 592 candidates (23%) have declared assets more than ₹5 crore while 272 (11%) have assets worth ₹2 crore to ₹5 crore.

The average assets of Congress candidates are higher than BJP and JD(S) candidates, the report found out. Average assets of Congress candidates is worth ₹49.83 crore while the average assets of BJP and JD(S) candidates are ₹39.41 crore and ₹24.45 crore, respectively. "The role of money in polls is evident from the fact that all major political parties give ticket to wealthy candidates," the report said.

With assets worth over ₹1,633 crore, Independent candidate Yousuf Shariff, also known as KGF Babu, tops the list of candidates with highest declared assets. N. Nagaraju (MTB) of BJP stands next with ₹1,609 crore, while Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar has the third spot with ₹1,413 crore. Priya Krishna and Suresha B.S. of the Congress hold the fourth and fifth spots, respectively.

Gurusiddappa Basalingappa Toggi, an independent candidate at Ramdurga constituency in Belagavi district, has declared the lowest assets (excluding zero asset candidates) of ₹500. There are 14 contesting candidates who have declared zero assets.

"Criminalisation and wealth are two big problems during elections. Between 2018 and 2023, the wealth of many politicians has doubled. We appeal to voters to understand the candidates and their backgrounds before casting their votes," said Trilochan Sastry, chairman, founder member and trustee, ADR, on Wednesday.



Low number of women candidates across parties

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The number of women candidates continues to remain low across parties.

In Karnataka, Janata Dal (Secular) has fielded 13 women (6%) and 195 men, whereas the BJP has fielded 12 women (5%) and 212 men. The Congress, on the other hand, has fielded only 11 women (5%) and 210 men.

According to the report released by ADR, 48% of candidates have declared their educational qualifications to be between standard 5 and 12, while 43% of candidates have a qualification of graduation or above.

From Page One

'Number of candidates with criminal cases up'

The ADR has also recommended that those who have been charged with serious criminal offences be disqualified from contesting elections.

Politicians who have cases against them can contest elections and even become Ministers, Kathyayini Chamaraj, State coordinator, Karnataka Election Watch, pointed out, adding that it displayed inequality before law. "The 244th report submitted by the Law Commission to the Supreme Court had recommended the disqualification of candidates who had chargesheets filed against them. But it has not happened. It is in the hands of the voters to use their discretion and not elect such candidates," Ms. Chamaraj said.

Cong. says it will repeal 'anti-people' laws; civil society groups expect clearer stand

K.V. Aditya Bhardwaj
BENGALURU

The Opposition Congress, in its manifesto released on Tuesday, said they would "repeal all unjust laws and other anti-people laws passed by the BJP government within one year of coming to power."

This comes in the backdrop of opposition from several civil society groups, apart from farmers and worker unions, to five laws: stringent "cow slaughter ban" law, "anti-conversion" law, amendments that effectively deregulated APMC markets, diluting land reforms to liberalise the ownership of agriculture land, and increasing the working hours from 8 to 12 on factory floors. These were passed by the BJP government.

Despite demands to repeal them, the BJP government did not budge, prompting civil society, farmers, and worker unions to adopt resolutions to "defeat BJP". They have demanded the opposition to commit to repeal these laws if they came to power.

While the Congress has committed itself to repealing "anti-farmer laws enacted by the BJP" and to withdrawing the amendment to Factories Act, there is no clarity on other contentious laws. Meanwhile, the JD(S) has mostly been silent on all five laws.

"Recently at a farmers' convention, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar gave us an undertaking in writing that if the Congress came to power they would fulfil our charter of demands, which includes withdrawal of three laws. Of these, Congress has explicitly committed to only withdrawing amendments to the APMC Act and not the other two related to cow slaughter and land reforms. The JD(S), which has also given us a written undertaking, not only supported dilution of land reforms in the legislature, they have also failed to let their stand known on any of these laws in their manifesto," said farmers' leader Badagalpura Nagendra, who is part of Samyukta Kisan Morcha.

Bahutva Karnataka, a coalition of progressive organisations, argued that cow laughter and anti-conversion legislations breach several principles of the Constitution. "We need all the political parties, apart from the BJP who enacted these laws, to make their stand clear on these laws," said Vinay Sreenivasa from Bahutva Karnataka.

A senior Congress leader said the party was caught in a 'Catch-22' situation as any "commitment to repeal communal laws" will play into the hands of BJP to further "communally polarise" society. The leader said former CM Siddaramaiah has said on record several times that the party will repeal both if voted to power.

Laws passed by BJP government that have faced resistance

- The Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020
- The Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022
- The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Act, 2020
- The Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 2020
- Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2023

Indian politics will witness dramatic change post-polls, says Kanhaiya Kumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian politics will witness a dramatic change after elections in Karnataka, as this election is not just for the people of this State, but for the entire country and for democracy, said Kanhaiya Kumar, national spokesperson, INC.

"The sarkar in this State was not made with a mandate but was made with money. This time, voters should show the BJP that in a democracy, things are in the hands of people. There is equality in the polling booth and each voter carries a revolutionary power," he said, while addressing students at an event here on Wednesday.

He urged "highly literate and tech savvy" voters not to fall prey to any kind of threats, but to understand the power of each vote towards strengthening democracy. "BJP president J.P. Nadda recently said if you don't vote for the BJP, you won't get the blessings of the PM. This is a threat to the people of Karnataka, especially with GST collection. The State won't receive anything from the Centre, if it's not a BJP-ruled one, and it will be punished... That is the message," he said.

Modi chants 'Bajrang Bali ki jai'; Congress says don't equate Bajrang Dal with Lord Hanuman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chanted "Bajrang bali ki jai" at the end of all the three speeches in Karnataka, at Mulki and Ankola in coastal Karnataka and Bailhongal in Belagavi district.

This comes a day after he led the attack from the front on mention of Bajrang Dal in the Congress manifesto. The manifesto promised decisive action within the legal framework, including imposition of ban, on outfits spreading hate such as PFI or Bajrang Dal. On Tuesday, Mr. Modi had hit out at the Congress, saying the party was attempting to "lock up the devotees of Lord Hanuman."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Tulsi Gowda and Sukri Bomma Gowda, Padma award recipients, at Ankola in Uttara Kannada district on Wednesday. ANI

At Ankola, Mr. Modi also told people to punish those indulging in "culture of abuse" by pressing the button in the polling booth chanting "Jai Bajrang Bali."

Meanwhile, the Congress stood its ground and said that Bajrang Dal cannot be equated to Lord Hanumanta. Responding to the parallel drawn by the BJP, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar said: "I am a Hindu, a devotee of Rama and Hanumanta. But is Bajrang Dal the same as Hanumanta?" He went to challenge the BJP to shun such "divisive and distorted narratives" and speak of problems of the people.

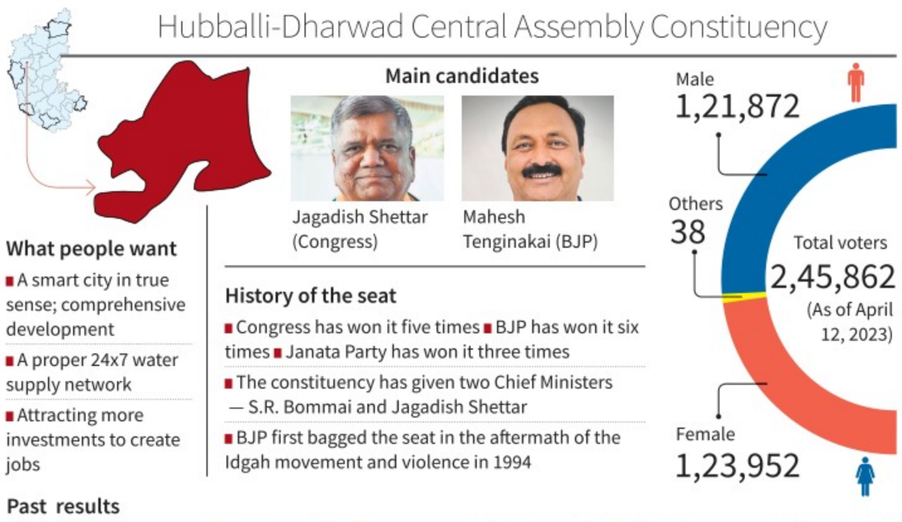
Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah said the Congress had promised firm and decisive action against all outfits spreading hate and it was mischievous to distort it.

The battle between Shettar's 'hurt' sentiments and BJP's 'betrayal' card

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Hubballi Dharwad Central, the constituency which gave the State two Chief Ministers (S.R. Bommai and Jagadish Shettar) has drawn the attention of the nation this election as Mr. Shettar, who was considered a "soft spoken, loyal worker" of the saffron party, sprang a surprise by going against the party's diktat.

Mr. Shettar, whose family was long associated with Jan Sangh and who was Chief Minister albeit for a short period as leader of BJP, has now removed the saffron shawl and replaced it with the tricolour shawl of Congress party.



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	Jagadish Shettar (BJP)	58,201 49.61%	Mahesh Nalwad (Congress)	40,447 34.48%	Tabrez Samsi (JD-S)	7,898 6.73%
2018	Jagadish Shettar (BJP)	75,794 51.31%	Mahesh Nalwad (Congress)	54,488 36.89%	Rajann Koravi (JD-S)	10,754 7.28%

Six-time victory

Being the senior most BJP and Lingayat leader from North Karnataka, Mr. Shettar did deliver a shocker to the BJP camp with his exit and he is using the "hurt card". After the initial shock, the BJP camp is now busy making all out efforts to retain the seat, which it won successively for six times from 1994 with Mr. Shettar as its candidate.

The Congress, on the other hand, is happy as the entry of another Lingayat leader has not only boosted the morale of party workers in the region, but also kindled the hope of winning the seat after a gap of three decades.

In the first four Assembly elections, the seat, then known as Hubballi Rural Assembly Constituency, was won by the Congress and it was in 1978 that S.R. Bommai of Janata Party (father of present Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai) snatched it away from the Congress. S.R. Bommai retained the seat for two more terms and he went on to become Chief Minister of the State. However, he failed to win it as the Janata Dal candidate in 1989 and he was defeated by Congress party's G.R. Sandra.

Saffron surge

It was during the 90's that the saffron party's growth in region started with the Idgah movement on the lines of Murli Manohar Joshi's 'Ekta Yatra' to hoist the national flag at Lal Chowk in Srinagar, which took a violent turn in 1994 taking away the lives of six persons.

The saffron surge helped BJP's Mr. Shettar to win Hubballi Dharwad Central in Assembly elections held later in the same year. Ever since, he has remained undefeated. The segment was renamed Hubballi Dharwad Central after delimitation in 2008.

In his first election, Mr. Shettar faced Basavaraj Bommai (present Chief Minister) who contested as Janata Dal candidate then. Mr. Bommai then took the Legislative Council route to become a legislator before joining the BJP in 2008. According to Mr. Shettar, the reason for denial of ticket to him is that Mr. Bommai and few others in BJP see him as a contender for chief ministerial position.

Opposite camp

Like in 1994, Mr. Shettar and Mr. Bommai are in opposite camps now. While Mr. Shettar fought against a Chief Minister's son (Basavaraj Bommai) in 1994, now he is pitted against BJP functionary Mahesh Tenginakai. Mr. Shettar terms it a "fight for self respect" but the BJP camp is targeting him for "betrayal."

The BJP has cleverly replaced Mr. Shettar, a Banajiga Lingayat, with Mr. Tenginakai from the same community. However Mr. Shettar's tirade against party's national organising secretary B.L. Santosh, a Brahmin, seems to have turned it into a "Brahmin vs. Lingayat" fight and Mr. Shettar has taken it further by targeting Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. To troubleshoot, the BJP had to rope in its Lingayat face and ex-Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

For a change, Congress leaders have stood behind the party candidate burying their differences. Winning the seat has turned into a matter of prestige for the BJP high command, Mr. Bommai, and Mr. Joshi too. While around 30 functionaries and workers who followed Mr. Shettar have been expelled, the party is wary of the potential damage by Mr. Shettar's sympathisers in the party.

Kharge's son, BJP leader Yatnal get EC notices

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Wednesday issued show-cause notices to Congress leader Priyank Kharge and BJP leader B.P. Yatnal for their alleged personal attacks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, respectively, while campaigning for the Karnataka Assembly election.

The EC said both remarks were in violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). While Mr. Priyank Kharge had called the Prime Minister "*nalayak*" (inept), Mr. Yatnal had asked if Ms. Gandhi was a "*vishkanya*" (poisonous woman).

In the notice issued to Mr. Kharge, the commission said that *prima facie*, he had violated provisions of the MCC, and asked him to respond by 5 p.m. on Thursday.

"Take notice that in event of no response from your side within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that you have nothing to say in the matter and the Election Commission will take appropriate action or decision in the matter," the notice said.

The notice issued to Mr. Yatnal also said *prima facie* he had violated MCC provisions. He too was asked to respond by Thursday.

The EC issued notices just a day after asking political parties, particularly star campaigners, to exercise restraint during campaigning.

T.N. asks Collectors, SPs to be alert ahead of release of *The Kerala Story*

The movie has kicked up a controversy among many parties and other groups in Kerala

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has issued an alert to all Collectors and Superintendents of Police for keeping a close vigil on the law and order situation in the State and maintaining it in the wake of the scheduled release of the feature film, *The Kerala Story,* on Friday.

The movie has kicked up a controversy among many parties and other groups in Kerala as the film, according to critics, has sought to portray Kerala as a fertile ground for recruiting impressionable youth for terrorist cause.

The official poster of the film, *The Kerala Story,* which is set to release on Friday. PTI

Reports in sections of the media indicated that the movie was scheduled for release in Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu.

A senior official said it was customary for the government to issue the alert whenever it foresaw the possibility of any trouble breaking out on account of certain events, including the release of feature films. The move was based on inputs from the intelligence wing of the police.

When asked whether the screening of the film was going to be banned, another official said, "There is no proposal before the government for the ban nor have we processed any such request." Such a course of action had not been taken in Kerala, he added.

In 2011, the Jayalalithaa-led government banned the screening of an English film *Dam 999,* the title of which indirectly pointed to the Mullaperiyar dam dispute between Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The ban is still in force for one more year, the official said, citing the sensitive nature of the dispute as the rationale behind the action.

In 2006, the exhibition of the film, *The Da Vinci Code*, was banned by the Karunanidhi-led government, but the Madras High Court allowed its screening.

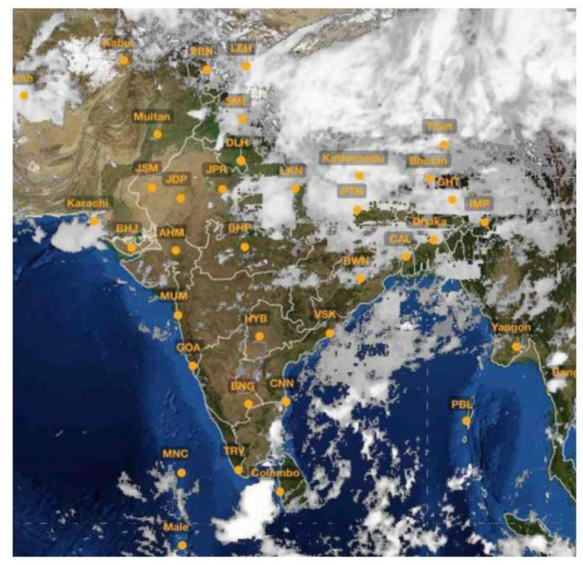
PIL plea for ban

Meanwhile, a public interest litigation petition has been filed in the Madras High Court for banning the *The Kerala Story* on the ground that the film makes a baseless claim that 32,000 Hindu and Christian women from Kerala had been converted to Islam and made to join the ISIS terrorist movement.

The court is expected to hear the plea on Thursday.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.8	24.8	Kozhikode	0.2	36.6	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	37.0	23.7	Kurnool	1	34.0	25.5
Aizawl	—	32.4	18.9	Lucknow	—	33.2	23.2
Allahabad	—	33.8	23.5	Madurai	4.9	35.7	24.1
Bengaluru	0.8	29.0	21.4	Mangaluru	—	34.3	25.9
Bhopal	6	—	20.0	Mumbai	—	32.7	25.6
Bhubaneswar	7.7	36.4	26.0	Mysuru	19	36.0	22.4
Chandigarh	5	28.4	19.1	New Delhi	—	30.6	20.2
Chennai	11	31.1	26.2	Patna	—	34.3	23.8
Coimbatore	9	31.6	23.3	Port Blair	3	33.8	26.7
Dehradun	3	23.6	17.4	Puducherry	1.2	31.2	25.8
Gangtok	1	20.5	12.5	Pune	—	35.3	21.4
Goa	—	34.8	25.2	Raipur	60	29.7	20.2
Guwahati	7	32.0	21.6	Ranchi	—	31.7	22.2
Hubballi	—	37.0	20.0	Shillong	—	23.5	15.2
Hyderabad	—	32.4	22.6	Shimla	8	16.2	8.5
Imphal	—	30.0	20.7	Srinagar	3	19.7	10.4
Jaipur	—	32.6	21.6	Thiruvananthapuram	29	33.3	23.6
Kochi	5	31.6	25.0	Tiruchi	—	36.7	26.0
Kohima	—	21.4	14.7	Vijayawada	12	32.4	25.2
Kolkata	—	36.0	27.5	Visakhapatnam	—	32.3	26.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	..40	.28	82	96	.....
Bengaluru	...8	157	.44	25	33	.....
Chennai	...3	113	112	54	50	.....
Delhi	.21	..77	.84	...112	...109	.....
Hyderabad	.10	..11	.48	49	88	.....
Kolkata	.19	..22	.27	52	52	.....
Lucknow	...8	141	.45	66	78	.....
Mumbai	.32	..19	...9	59	...148	.....
Pune	119	173	112	77	67	.....
Visakhapatnam	.18	..42	.20	38	76	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 266 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Courts a bulwark against media suppression'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Despite disappointing delays, there can be no doubt that the Supreme Court and the High Courts have remained a strong bulwark against an executive which is determined to cut the media down to size, Supreme Court senior advocate Chander Uday Singh said here on Wednesday.

Mr. Singh was delivering the Lawrence Dana Pinkham Memorial Lecture at the convocation of the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) class of 2022-23 and the presentation of the ACJ Journalism Awards for 2022. The present National Democratic Alliance government, led by the BJP, believed that a brute majority in Parliament was justification enough to tame and bend the media to its bidding, Mr. Singh said.

Media Development Foundation (MDF) trustee N. Ram, who is a Director of The Hindu Publishing Group, told the graduands that though the freedom of the press was under attack, there were still many spaces and opportunities to do quality journalism.

He said that ACJ's curriculum design, first-rate faculty, infrastructure, placements, and values were factors that have made it the premier postgraduate journalism institution in South Asia.

Awardees along with Chander Uday Singh, senior advocate, Supreme Court ; N. Ram, Trustee, Media Development Foundation; and Sashi Kumar, Chairman of MDF and ACJ, at the ACJ convocation ceremony in Chennai on Wednesday. R. RAVINDRAN

The Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) Journalism Awards for the year 2022 were presented in three categories. Arunabh Saikia of *Scroll.in* won the award for Investigation Journalism for his story on Adani Enterprises' coal mining in Chhattisgarh's biodiverse Hasdeo Arand forest. The K.P. Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for Social Impact Journalism went to Neel Madhav and Alishan Jafri for their story in *The Caravan* on hatemongering Hindi YouTube Channels. The first winner of the Ashish Yechury Memorial Award for Photojournalism was Tanmoy Bhaduri of *Context-.news*, awarded for his work on the hardships faced by children growing up near the coalfields of Jharia, Jharkhand.

Sashi Kumar, chairman of the MDF and ACJ, said that the role of journalism institutions was becoming more critical as part of the media has become complicit, part of the media is embattled, and part of the media is fighting bravely to keep the media independent.

Karnataka poll agenda: It is turning out to be BJP's national vs. Congress' local in the rural hinterland

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The campaigning for the State Assembly elections is entering a critical phase and the agenda being pitched is increasingly turning out to be the BJP's national versus Congress' local in the rural hinterland.

From depending on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Home Minister Amit Shah and U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for serial campaigns and roadshows to woo the voters, the BJP is projecting its national leaders as the face of a strong and stable governance.

In contrast, the Congress on its part is more vocal about the local and is harnessing the appeal and draw of their "homegrown" leaders, ranging from Siddaramaiah and M. Mallikarjun Kharge to D.K. Shivakumar.

Though the Congress national leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, have made frequent appearances, they appear to be "token" in nature when compared to the publicity blitzkrieg being launched by the BJP leaders criss-crossing the State.

A file photo of the former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on his way to file his nomination papers for Varuna constituency in Mysuru district.

'BJP bucking scrutiny'

The BJP's fixation on national issues is seen as a diversion by the Congress to evade scrutiny of their local performances. In the interiors of Varuna, for instance, the BJP candidate, V. Somanna – who is billed as an "outsider" and pitted against Mr. Siddaramaiah – has little to show to the voters of his development works to which the local populace could relate. For, Mr. Somanna's political roots are in Bengaluru.

His campaign speeches hence refer to highways, airports, rail infrastructure, Vande Bharat trains etc. all of which are the Centre's projects. They do have deep implications in an urban milieu but has little resonance with the rural populace, especially in the interior regions where livelihood and farming issues matter.

Here, the Congress has an upper hand and though out of power for five years, the Siddaramaiah government's scheme of ₹1 per kg of rice has a better recall value among the voters. The Congress is building on this and has now promised 10 kg of free rice besides free power up to 200 units, unemployment dole, and increase in wages to the ASHA workers to which the rural voters can easily relate to.

The BJP campaign makes no mention of local schemes of the Basavaraj Bommai government announced in the State Budget, including those where the implementation has been effective as claimed by its spokespersons.

A case in point being PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana where the penetration is 94% in the State. But it also has a Central government's appendage to it and is not entirely a State project. The piped drinking water project has impressive coverage but again is part of Jal Jeevan Mission and is the Prime Minister's pet project.

Though Mr. Bommai announced free education for girls in government colleges, free rides for working women, and scholarship for farmers children, there is little reference to these and the focus drifts to national issues in the BJP camp.

One subject which has resonance across the country and is raised by the Congress is the imputation that the BJP, if elected, would tinker with the Constitution, an insinuation that forces the BJP on the backfoot to counter the narrative. The other is the reservation issue.

Focus on 'guarantees'

More than emphasising on what the BJP has failed to deliver – on employment generation, curbing price rise etc. – the Congress is off late focusing on its "guaranteed" promises that have local and immediate relevance and implications for the voters.

To counter it, the BJP manifesto offering freebies was released on Monday but is perceived to have come too late to gain traction and tickle down to the rural areas as there are just six days to go for the polls.

Moral policing: Four held for assaulting student in Puttur

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The student was allegedly assaulted by a few persons for having juice with a girl from his college

In yet another incident of suspected moral policing, a college student was allegedly assaulted by a few persons at Puttur in Dakshina Kannada district, for drinking juice with a girl from his college at a shop near the Puttur KSRTC bus stand on May 2.

The Puttur Town police have arrested four persons in this connection.

The names of the arrested persons are Dinesh Gowda, 25, of Kedampady village of Puttur taluk; Prajwal, 23, of Aryapu village of Puttur taluk; Nishant Kumar, 19, of Kedampady village, and S. Pradeep, 19, of Olamogaru village of Puttur taluk.

In a complaint, Mohammed Paris, a student of a government college at Kabaka in Puttur, said he had gone to see a movie with his girl classmate to a mall. Around 1 p.m., the two came to a juice centre near the bus stand. Autorickshaw driver Dinesh Gowda, along with a few students of Kombettu Mahalingeshwara ITI college, came to the juice shop and asked Mr. Paris to come aside.

Mr. Paris said he was taken away in the autorickshaw to a place near SCDCC Bank where he was allegedly abused for moving with a Hindu girl.

The group allegedly assaulted Mr. Paris and tore his shirt and trousers. Dinesh Gowda and the ITI students reportedly threatened Mr. Paris if he reported the incident to the police, he said in the complaint.

Following treatment at Puttur Government hospital, Mr. Paris lodged a complaint against Dinesh Gowda and seven ITI students.

The Puttur Town police registered a case under Sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting with deadly weapon), 365 (kidnapping), 504 (intentional insult), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code against the accused.

AI camera: UDF dares CM to deny accusations

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan on Wednesday dared Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to deny the accusation that his close relative had benefited hugely from the alleged corruption in the Keltron-sponsored automated traffic offence detection system installed across the State at an "exaggerated" cost of ₹232 crore.

However, at a public meeting here to celebrate the second anniversary of the LDF government, Mr. Vijayan accused the Congress and BJP of blindly opposing development projects by promoting a misinformation campaign.

Arikompan is partially blind, says Kerala Forest Department report

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

A report by the Forest Department has stated that wild elephant Arikompan is partially blind.

"It was found that the right eye had only partial vision. The elephant had a two-day-old injury on the lower front portion of the trunk, which was treated. It was fit to be released into the wild," said the report by the Chief Conservator of Forests, High Range Circle, Arun R.S.

Tough tusker: Arikompan after it was darted at Chinnakkanal on Saturday. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

"Two days before the capture, Arikompan fought with another wild elephant Chakkakompan, which resulted in the injuries. A health check-up was done and medicines, including antibiotics, were given," said a Forest Department official.

Meanwhile, the elephant that was translocated from Chinnakkanal to the Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) has been traced again after its radio collar remained out of range for almost 24 hours. According to Forest Department officials, the tusker is roaming at Mavadi inside the PTR.

"The animal was under a thick canopy and the signals got cut off on Tuesday. The last signal was received from Mavadi at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday," said the official. Department officials said three teams consisting of four members each had been constituted to trace the elephant physically.

According to Forest Department officials, within three days, the tusker roamed around 20 km within the Kerala and Tamil Nadu border forests. On Monday, it moved to Vannathippara in Tamil Nadu and returned to the Kerala forests.

Present imperfect

Irrespective of what the USCIRF says, India must review its rights record

For the fourth consecutive year, the government has expressed outrage and rejected the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) latest report, calling it "biased and motivated". In its report released on Monday, the independent congressional body has called for India to be designated a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) for its "worsening" record on religious freedoms. The report has targeted the Indian government for "promoting and enforcing religiously discriminatory policies", naming laws that deal with conversion, interfaith relationships, wearing the hijab and cow slaughter, as well as the CAA and the NRC. All of these, it alleges, have impacted minorities including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and Adivasis (indigenous peoples and Scheduled Tribes) negatively. The USCIRF has also catalogued acts of violence and the vilification of minorities and criticised the "suppression of critical voices" by intimidation that includes surveillance, demolition of property, detentions and the targeting of NGOs through laws curtailing foreign donations. It has criticised the U.S. State Department for not having designated India as a CPC, and has called for sanctions on Indian government agencies and officials. In the only such sanction imposed on India, the U.S. had, in 2005, revoked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's U.S. visa after a USCIRF recommendation on the 2002 Gujarat riots. In its response, the External Affairs Ministry has told the USCIRF to "desist" from such reports and to "develop a better understanding of India.... "

The government's stern reaction is understandable, and is in line with its response to such reports over the last two decades, since the USCIRF began to publish its findings. The process the USCIRF follows is non-inclusive, and the fact that it does not study the state of religious freedoms inside the U.S., suggests a double standard. Moreover, its recommendations hold no sway within India, and are meant only for the U.S. government to deliberate on, and accept or dismiss. Either way, there is little need for or utility to New Delhi's public responses, which make it sound defensive and do not actually repair the reputational damage to India as a secular, inclusive and pluralistic democracy. Given the detailed and pointed accusations, however, the Centre may well consider an internal review of its conduct and the direction it hopes to lead India in, on issues such as religious freedoms and rights. Eventually, any government's duty is not in achieving a perfect score in a survey run abroad, but rather in burnishing its record of delivering justice, equality and security to its citizens back home.

Foregone conclusion

Mirziyoyev must now make good on his promises after an emphatic win

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev won overwhelming voter approval (90%) in Sunday's referendum to rewrite the Constitution, which the 65-year-old leader claims would not only improve governance and quality of life in the former Soviet republic but could also allow him to extend his rule beyond his current term. Mr. Mirziyoyev, a former loyal Prime Minister of dictator Islam Karimov, has gradually opened up the country for social and economic reforms ever since becoming the President in 2016 after his boss's death. He cracked down on forced labour in cotton fields, released political prisoners, relaxed media censorship and promoted women's rights, while his policies aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship and attracting foreign investments are transforming what was once a closed economy to becoming the fastest growing in Central Asia. The new charter, which describes Uzbekistan as " sovereign, democratic, legal, social and secular", promises a new media code and criminalises domestic abuse. It promises to ban the death penalty, guarantees prisoner rights and offers better social protection, including housing to lower income people.

But it would also reset the President's terms to zero, allowing him to contest in two more elections under the new Constitution, which has increased the presidential term from five years to seven. Mr. Mirziyoyev is currently serving his second five-year term, which would expire in 2026. Two more seven-year terms would mean that he could remain in power until 2040, the year he would turn 82. The Election Commission had made detailed arrangements to showcase the voting process as free and fair. International journalists and monitors were invited, allowed to visit polling stations and speak to voters and officials on the day of voting. But still, everyone knew what the results would be as there was no campaign against the President's proposals. While the big media houses were largely aligned with the government, social media activists and press freedom advocates were under pressure not to campaign against the reforms. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which had sent election observers, stated the voting was not truly representative. Yet, Mr. Mirziyoyev's reign is markedly different from that of his dictatorial predecessor. Mr. Mirziyoyev's social and economic reforms, while making sure that his political powers are not threatened, are not enough. If he is serious about his promise of building a new Uzbekistan, he should also launch political reforms, respecting the right to dissent and allowing the opposition to operate free from fear of government pressure and intimidation.

The Karnataka election, the ideological contestations

Valerian Rodrigues

was professor at Mangalore University and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

The electoral arena in Karnataka in the run-up to the State Assembly elections 2023, on May 10, has turned out to be a battleground that is outpacing any other in living memory. There are many reasons being advanced for this: Karnataka has been the stepping stone of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to South India and needs to be retained at all costs; the State is an economic powerhouse, particularly in new technologies; there are elections to important States as well as to Parliament in the offing.

The Congress Party has a well-tested and rooted leadership in the State apart from the fact that Mallikarjun Kharge, the recently elected all-India Congress President, hails from the State. The Congress's electoral prospects, elsewhere and hereafter, may be crucially dependent on this election. The Gandhi family in general, and Rahul Gandhi in particular, enjoy great moral standing in the State, with Mr. Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra adding to this.

The Janata Dal (Secular) led by H.D. Deve Gowda, the former Prime Minister of India, is a local brew of a farming community, a dominant caste and with embedded memories of pluralism cohabiting a region. There is some truth in all these narratives. But there are also ideological contestations behind the escalating rhetorical flourish, biting satire, lampooning of opponents, and promises of freebies. These contestations are redrawing the political contours of the political parties in the fray, particularly the BJP and Congress, and this shift would have an important bearing on the future of electoral democracy in India, including the idea of progress.

Ideological overdrive

While the BJP has scored much success in Karnataka's electoral politics in the last two decades, its Hindutva project has not advanced at the same pace. This is in spite of the sporadic spectacles on love-jihad, Tipu Sultan, the hijab issue, cow slaughter, and religious conversions.

As a strong avowal of common descent and cultural belonging (in Savarkar's words, *pitrabhu* and *punyabhu*), Hindutva elicited some support in certain pockets of present-day Karnataka from early on. While a few in the Bombay-Karnataka region (now called Kittur Karnataka) too were attracted by it, most of the educated Lingayats of the region came to define themselves *vis-à-vis* Brahmins. A significant section of them were influenced by Jotirao Phule's Satyasodak Sangh. With the collection and classification of the scattered Vachana literature in the 1920s and the 1930s and the *maths* as their institutional support base, the Lingayats had already begun to mount the demand of being a separate religious community in 1940s.

> There is a redrawing of the political contours of the political parties in the fray — a shift that will have bearing on the future of electoral democracy in India

However, with the founding of Karnataka as a separate State in 1956, they came to regard themselves as being foundational to it. There were deep internal cleavages of belief and social gradation within the community and being Lingayat meant different things to different groups within it. The relative political marginalisation of this numerous community from the 1970s, and particularly from the late 1980s, the rise of new political players, contention with the Vokkaligas (a large farming community that rallied together under the leadership of H.D. Deve Gowda), the inept handling of the local leadership by the all India Congress leadership, persuaded its significant sections to shift their allegiance to the BJP in the 1990s. B.S. Yediyurappa and some other leaders such as Jagdish Shettar (who is now with the Congress) who were associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh played the mediating role.

This cooption of Lingayats into the Hindutva fold was not driven through an ideological grooming from below, and invariably involved drawing the Veerashaiva and Lingayat seers as community representatives into the political arena. Paradoxically, the Hindutva project in the State encountered a major roadblock in this community, internal to the project but also proud of its autonomy. Given this impasse, the Hindutva leadership chose to push to the margins those leaders who wielded clout and prestige within the community and brought to the fore others docile to it.

A recrafting

In southern Karnataka, where the Vokkaligas have a dominant political presence, Hindutva embraced a different strategy. In the last few decades, this region has witnessed a hastened pace of recrafting 'Hinduism', shifting the emphasis from village and local deities to those with wider appeal, renaming and reconstructing temples and ritual sites, reordering sacral practices, and splitting apart syncretic spaces. At the same time, the prestige of the Adichunchanagiri Math, and its presiding deity Kalabhairav, as the premier seat of the religiosity of this community has also grown enormously. Proponents of Hindutva have attempted to shift this efflorescence to reinforce their ideology. They have argued that Hindutva and Hinduism are one and the same. There has been a vilification of Tipu Sultan while new Vokkaliga heroes such as Nanje Gowda and Uri Gowda are brought to the fore. The Adichunchanagiri Math, however, has been indisposed to such reconstruction without adequate evidence. The JD(S) has stood its ground against the polarisation of the Vokkaliga habitat, and Hindutva usurping its cultural resources. It has also rallied in favour of a strong regional identity.

Moving in another direction

The Congress Party seems to be shifting gears in a different ideological direction: There is little stress in its rhetoric on secularism, socialism, and nationalism that dominated much of its discourse for decades. These lofty goals are now presumed as a given in the constitutional frame of India. All the early assurances of the party, before the loud rhetoric of election frenzy set in, such as an unemployment dole to the educated unemployed, a quantity of food-grains to poor households, certain units of free electricity to every household in the State, and free travel for women in public transport, had no caste and region-tag built into them. The emphasis has been on inclusiveness and equality. In fact, Mallikarjun Kharge said in an interview to a media channel (India Today) that the ideological plank of his party is woven around democracy, constitutionalism, and rights. It is important to reiterate that Rahul Gandhi has often held fort highlighting these three issues, particularly *vis-à-vis* the Hindutva project. The Left, still left over in Karnataka, seems to endorse this turn.

The BJP is aware that the ideological plank through which it proposes to recraft public life in Karnataka has led to much heartburn and has thrown up new fears and apprehensions. But it thinks that the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party's organisational might and reach, and a rejuggling of the reservation code will enable it to wade through such opposition and covert resistance. It probably believes that this is the only course open to it to commandeer the other States of South India. The Congress has desisted from embracing the path of social polarisation to counter Hindutva, although its local leadership has deep social moorings to pursue such an endeavour. The Congress could very well say that its ideological plank encompasses that of JD(S) as well. But it is not so much ideology, but a set of interests, that holds the latter together.

Valour and prestige — the world of special operations

Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur VM (retired)

is former Additional Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies

The evacuation of 121 Indians from Wadi Seidna, north of Khartoum in Sudan, in the dead of night, using an Indian Air Force (IAF) C-130J Super Hercules, has been lauded all round. The IAF's press release is an understatement of the stupendous task done on the night of April 27-28, but is a subtle *shabash* to the personnel involved. And let us not forget the steed they flew, the C-130J, and the foresight of the IAF and national leadership in the beginning of the century which, considering the growing stature and responsibilities of the nation, had planned the purchase of this aircraft, an outstanding capability enabler. One also needs to acknowledge the acquisition of the other aircraft for the IAF, the C-17 Globemaster heavy lift aircraft.

The Wadi Seidna mission will soon be forgotten and it is only right that the reader is able to have some idea of how special operations capability has progressed, and what should be kept in mind as it is developed further.

The impact of Kandahar

During the 'Kandahar' incident of December 24, 1999, when an Indian Airlines flight IC-814 was hijacked while on a flight from Kathmandu to New Delhi – it ended on December 31, 1999 – I happened to be with Air Chief Marshal A.Y. Tipnis on December 24 in Israel when the chief's mobile phone rang; the Vice Chief was on line with the news that IC-814 had been hijacked and had landed at Amritsar, a civil airfield. We all know how standard operating procedures did not work thereafter and the plane eventually landed at Kandahar in Afghanistan, leading to the release of dreaded terrorists.

Could India have done a rescue like the famous Israeli rescue at Entebbe, Uganda in July 1976?

> Operation Kaveri, the Sudan rescue mission, is an example of why the ethos and the training that goes into the special operations of the Indian Air Force crew should not be diluted

Here, Israeli commandos flew all the way to Uganda and stormed a hijacked Air France jet in trying circumstances. The will is sure to have been there but for two big impediments – the presence of Pakistan whose territory could not have been overflown and no IAF aircraft that could carry out a very risky mission avoiding Pakistani airspace, entering Afghanistan from the south and returning without refuelling.

The Afghanistan rescue missions

Enter the C-130J in the IAF's inventory, and we now have this capability if the political leadership decides to intervene in such a critical situation where national interests and reputation are at stake. Before the Sudan rescue there have been two other such missions that are known in the open domain. The first was the evacuation of Indian Embassy personnel from Herat, in Afghanistan in April 2020. The aircraft flew from India and had its engines running even after landing; the IAF's Garud commandos stood guard while the diplomatic staff emplaned.

The second mission, on August 20, 2021 was an equally high risk one from Kabul; one had evacuation videos by the United States and the fiasco that unfolded going viral. The airspace was uncontrolled and the ground situation chaotic for want of a better word. There were a large number of aircraft in the air and the pilots had to avoid them and use night vision goggles while landing; the only call they received from the ground controller was the line, "Land at your own risk" (a phrase that is etched on the shoulder patch that squadron crew wear on their flying overalls).

While the crew on these missions were awarded for their professionalism and gallantry, what needs to be appreciated too is the aircrew selection and their special training.

In the case of the Sudan rescue, the crew faced many problems too. Intelligence was poor and the runway was rough with no landing aids. All they had was top-class onboard aircraft instrumentation such as synthetic runway generation on the head-up display, electro-optical night vision capability, night vision goggles, and of course, great confidence in their ability to pull it off.

The essence of special ops

Special operations are much more than stick and throttle operations, night vision goggles and dark nights. Every member of such a mission bears on his shoulders the weight of a nation's prestige. They are India's 'strategic corporals'. This term, coined by General Charles C. Krulak of the U.S. Marine Corps, denotes that in modern warfare, the actions of even the enlisted man on the front lines has a strategic effect on a nation's policies; and that institutional training should cater for this. When it comes to failure, the bungled hostage rescue attempt by the Americans from Iran in 1980 or the picture of Gary Powers in USSR custody when his U-2 was shot down in 1960 are reminders of the loss of face for the U.S. In terms of success, what brought laurels for the U.S. was the elimination of Osama bin Laden in a special forces raid. There is, thus, a non-military intangible element in every such operation that a young officer or a corporal, far removed from his base, has to accomplish. It is only right that this ethos and training in the IAF's special operations crew not be diluted by the lure of sending the versatile C-130s for routine tasks and VIP carriage.

The IAF's C-130J special ops squadrons (there are two) call themselves the 'Veiled Vipers' and the 'Raiding Raptors.' It is incumbent on the leadership to ensure that their sting stays potent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Delaying tactics'

The extent to which the government of the day can go to provide freedom to convicts who had committed heinous crimes against women and children is deplorable. The delaying tactics of the convicts and "U-turn" by the government will not go unnoticed by the people (Page 1, "Bilkis Bano case convicts playing for time: SC judge", May 3). The grievances of women , which are getting renewed attention thanks to wrestlers' protests, are only going to increase empathy for the survivors of crimes.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

The premature release of the convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang rape case in Gujarat and the early release of the don Anand Mohan, convicted for the lynching of the Scheduled Caste IAS officer, Krishnaiah, in Bihar have one thing in common — the denial of justice to members of the minority and marginalised communities for crimes perpetrated against them. It is a chilling reminder to all of us about the undue influence of certain forces that still persist in our country, towards which political leaders of all parties vie with each other to genuflect willingly in order to appease casteist and communal elements. In politics there has always been some "gerrymandering", in jury selection too such machinations exist. But this exercise in "justice-mandering" signals a clear erosion in our criminal justice system. These incidents reinforce the belief that it is almost impossible for weaker sections in the community to achieve justice.

G. Parameswaran,
Coimbatore

It is clear as daylight that this is a case of terrible crime where members of a family were murdered and women raped. Will Bilkis Bano get a fair judgment? The Chief Justice of India needs to focus on this case of paramount importance and pronounce a historic verdict.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

May Day

May Day, Teacher's day and Law day and the like are great days that emphasise the democratic way of life. This year, May Day was a day of some significance as the Tamil Nadu government reversed its decision on having a 12-hour working day after realising the scale of opposition to the proposal. Contrast this with the farmers' agitation which went on for more than a year, and where the government was obstinate.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Ugly faceoff

Virat Kohli and Gautam Gambhir have sullied their reputations by getting into a heated argument after an Indian Premier League game. Kohli's tiff with Naveen-Ul-Haq of LSG appears to have triggered the face-off with Gambhir. This conflict is a significant breach of etiquette, and has brought the BCCI and the game of cricket into disrepute.

N.J. Ravi Chander,
Bengaluru

Sledging has always been a matter of concern in cricket. Being experienced and respected players of the game, both men ought to have shown restraint over their emotions. Letting their past differences get the better of them did spoil the show.

Kasulabad Ruthvik Goud,
Korukonda, Andhra Pradesh.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Guaranteed pension is not bad economics

Rohit Azad

teaches at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Indranil Chowdhury

teaches at PGDAV College, New Delhi

With multiple State governments announcing reversion to the old pension scheme (OPS) and some more speculating to do the same, the debate on pensions is hotting up. Most economists have frowned upon this arguing that this is bad economics on at least two grounds. Firstly, since the State has to bear full burden of pensions, it will become fiscally unsustainable in the medium to long run. Second, such an unsustainable rise in pension allocation in the Budget can only come at the cost of other more pressing welfare expenditures allocated to the poor and marginalised sections. The OPS, therefore they argue, is a case of elite workers gaining at the cost of their brethren lower on the income ladder.

Both the arguments assume the fiscal revenues to be fixed, which need not be the case if the government has its priorities right. Instead of rationalising necessary expenditure, the government should rationalise taxes, say by implementing inheritance and wealth taxes, which are either negligible or non-existent in India. But let us leave this aside.

Public sector workers are asking for a guaranteed pension in place of the new pension scheme (NPS), which fluctuates according to the returns prevailing in the market. They are not freeloaders wanting the State to fund their post-retirement lives. We believe that they can deduct employees' contributions towards pension during the working life, but can give them a guaranteed pension after they retire. The workers would readily accept such a contributory guaranteed pension scheme (CGPS), a blueprint of which we present in this piece.

Let's say the employees continue contributing 10% of their basic pay monthly as they do now under the NPS but the State promises to pay a pension of 50% of the last drawn salary which is adjusted for inflation, exactly as the OPS would have. The critical difference between the OPS and the CGPS is that a large part of the latter will be funded by the employees themselves as against no contribution in the former. And the State pays an additional balance of the difference between the 50% guaranteed pension and the market determined pension amount.

The upside is that if the market return happens to be higher than this, the State gets to pocket that. It may well be that on balance (with State gaining when returns are higher as against it paying the difference when they are lower), the additional burden on the CGPS (compared to the NPS) may be marginal. After all, the economic argument of those defending the NPS is that the returns in the market do not stay the same, so it may actually turn out to be better than the OPS. The point is, why should this entire burden of uncertainty fall on employees alone and not be shared by their employers?

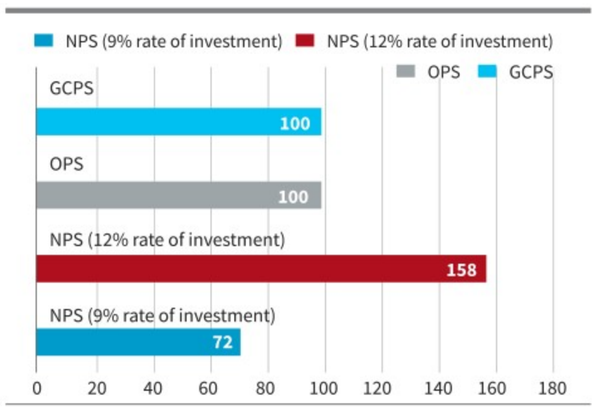
The chart compares the three schemes – the OPS, the CGPS, the NPS – keeping the OPS as 100. We take 40% as annuity of the NPS corpus and project the amount a worker would get depending on two rates of return – 9% (the average rate of return currently prevailing) and a hypothetical 12%. One could ask why are we calculating the pensions only on 40% of the corpus and not the entire corpus. There are two reasons. Firstly, there is an upper limit to how much you can withdraw from your pension corpus at the time of retirement, which is 60% currently. Second, under the OPS, apart from pension, there was a component of contributory provident fund (CPF), which amounts to almost 60% of the pension corpus of the NPS. In other words, the CPF of the OPS cancels out the 60% withdrawal from the NPS corpus. Apples should be compared with apples, which is what this chart does.

Two things stand out from this chart. Firstly, when the market return is 9%, the State ends up paying the gap, i.e. 28, but when the return is 12%, it gets to pocket the extra 58. Second, under the CGPS, the burden is only the employer's contribution part, exactly as in the NPS. The CGPS gives guaranteed pension to the employees without putting the exchequer under additional burden necessarily.

A few riders are in order here. With the setting up of the special task force to rationalise pensions by the Union government, there is growing speculation that the government may come up with a guaranteed pension of 30% (not 50%) of the last salary drawn and that too not adjusted to inflation. This would be grossly unfair on two counts. Firstly, 30% fixed pension (60% in our case) would give the employees even lesser pension than what they would get under the NPS. Second, the NPS is inflation-covered because under normal circumstances, the returns are higher than the inflation. So, even though they may not be inflation-indexed, they cover for rising prices. So, a 30% pension, despite guaranteed, gives you both a lower amount when you retire and its real value keeps on falling over the years, so it is a double whammy for the employees.

Our proposal of inflation-indexed CGPS of 50% of last salary drawn addresses both these issues without adding to the fiscal burden necessarily. And by inference, it does not cut into the share of other social welfare schemes. It's a win-win for all the stakeholders.

Inflation-indexed CGPS of 50% of last salary drawn addresses the issues without adding to the fiscal burden necessarily



Time for the DMK to guard itself

The BJP is taking advantage of the divided house of the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
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As the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government, led by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, prepares to step into its third year in office in a few days, after a rather smooth sailing since May 2021, it suddenly finds itself under attack. Strangely, the attacks have come not from the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), the main opposition party in Tamil Nadu which has a substantial presence in the Assembly, but from its minor ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has just four legislators in the Assembly.

BJP State president K. Annamalai, by making one allegation after another against the DMK government, seems to have compensated for his party's thin presence in the Assembly from outside, at least in the perception war.

First, he released what he dubbed as the "DMK files", accusing senior DMK leaders of corruption and amassing wealth beyond their means. Such allegations are quite common in politics and expectedly, the DMK leadership brushed them aside and issued legal notice to Mr. Annamalai, demanding crores of rupees as damages. It is another matter that, in the process, Mr. Annamalai made certain jaw-dropping claims about his benevolent friends, footing his monthly expenses running to a whopping ₹7 lakh to ₹8 lakh.

But what embarrassed the ruling party most were the two audio clips, which Mr. Annamalai claimed contained the voice of State Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan,

in which he "pointed an accusing finger at Youth Welfare and Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and Chief Minister's son-in-law, V. Sabareesan".

Mr. Thiagarajan dismissed the clips as fabricated by a "blackmail gang" to achieve their political ambitions and to disrupt the good governance being delivered by the ruling DMK.

Sharing some deep fake videos on Twitter, in a video statement, Mr. Thiagarajan said, "If such authentic-looking videos can be machine-generated, imagine all that can be done with audio files."

Amidst speculations that Mr. Thiagarajan might be dropped from the cabinet, or he could volunteer to quit, the Chief Minister broke his silence on the issue saying he was not ready to talk about the audio clippings as the Finance Minister had given an explanation. But what remained unsaid is that the government cannot afford to lose Mr. Thiagarajan for it will amount to admitting the allegations purportedly attributed to him.

It could be the same reason that the BJP and Mr. Annamalai could have chosen to target Mr. Thiagarajan instead of other cabinet members.

Projected as the right man with perfect prescriptions for all the ills afflicting Tamil Nadu finances, Mr. Thiagarajan succeeded in promoting the image of the Tamil Nadu government by roping in world-renowned economists including Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo in the Chief Minister's Economic Advisory Committee. He also suggested measures for filling the coffers of the State with proper management of mines and commercial taxes. He also minced no words in taking on the right wing.

Mr. Thiagarajan, who was the cynosure of the Tamil Nadu cabinet, gradually became controversial, with his social media postings hinting at "discomfort" in continuing in the cabinet. However, he quickly denied them. His efforts at tightening the belt and bringing under the purview of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission departments hitherto conducting their own recruitment were not taken in the right spirit by his own partymen.

He has survived because of Mr. Stalin, who has set his house in order for now. But the Chief Minister will ensure that his family, cabinet colleagues, and partymen, even inadvertently, do not play into the hands of its political enemies, including the BJP, which too is facing accusation of rewarding some functionaries with criminal and dubious antecedents in Tamil Nadu.

The BJP is seeking to present itself as a political force by taking advantage of "the divided house of the AIADMK" and by painting the DMK as a corrupt regime.

The DMK needs to be guarded. For vociferous claims on Dravidian ideology, the Dravidian model of government and development, and inclusive growth do not mean that the DMK can rest on its laurels.

Europe uses India, China to get Russian oil despite sanctions

India's crude imports from Russia post-war surged by 1,350%, became largest fuel exporter to Europe

DATA POINT

The Hindu Bureau

The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air has published a data-driven study highlighting a loophole that enables the European Union (EU), majority of G7 nations, and Australia to indirectly obtain oil from Russia through India and China, despite having banned or restricted imports of Russian crude oil and petroleum products.

The EU, as part of a broader price cap coalition, has banned or limited seaborne imports of Russian crude oil and established a $60 price cap on it as of December 5, 2022. Despite this, the countries enforcing these limitations have increased their intake of processed petroleum products from nations that are primary importers of Russian crude oil post the Ukraine invasion. This loophole can weaken the sanctions imposed on Russia, the report observed.

One year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, countries implementing price cap restrictions have increased their imports of refined oil products from China, India, Turkey, the UAE, and Singapore. These five nations, known as the "laundromat" countries, have augmented their purchases of Russian oil, processed it, and exported the products to countries enforcing sanctions on Russian oil.

The "laundromat" countries imported more Russian crude oil, compared to the year before the war. Import of crude oil from Russia into China increased from 39.8 million tonnes in the one year before the invasion to 57.7 million tonnes in the one year post the invasion. Similar analysis for India shows that the import figures surged from just 3.85 million tonnes before the invasion to 55.9 million tonnes post the invasion. Figures for all the five countries are presented in **chart 1**.

The growth in Russian crude oil import volumes for these five nations saw a 140% rise (or an increase of €48.2 billion in value terms) compared to the year before the invasion. Due to their lack of sanctions on Russian crude oil, the "laundromat" countries are increasing their imports of Russian crude oil, which is available to them at a reduced price.

These countries are refining the crude oil bought from Russia and exporting it to price cap coalition countries. Between the start of the crude oil import ban and price cap policy on December 5, 2022 and February 24, 2023 (a year after the Russian invasion), price cap coalition countries imported 12.9 million tonnes or €9.5 billion worth of oil products from the "laundromat" countries. Monthly oil products exported to price cap coalition countries from "laundromat" countries reached a peak in December-January 2023, after which it fell in February, heading towards levels of export before the invasion as shown in **chart 2**. The chart shows the monthly oil product exports (in '000' tonnes per day) from the "laundromat" countries to price cap coalition countries.

According to the report, India (3.7 million tonnes) was the largest exporter of oil products to price cap coalition countries since the implementation of the crude oil price cap up to the one-year anniversary, followed by China (3.0 million tonnes). In the one year since the Russian invasion, the EU was the largest region importing from these "laundromat" countries, buying 20.1 million tonnes of oil products. Australia, the largest country to import oil products from these countries, purchased 9.1 million tonnes (€8.0 billion), followed by the U.S. that imported 8.5 million tonnes (€6.6 billion).

Chart 3 shows the amount of crude oil (in million tonnes) imported by the "laundromat" countries from Russia one year post invasion and their exports of oil products to price cap coalition countries.

Taking the other route

The charts are sourced from the report titled, *The Laundromat: How the price cap coalition whitewashes Russian oil in third countries*, published by the **Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air**

Chart 1: The chart shows the Russian crude oil imports (in million tonnes) to "laundromat" countries

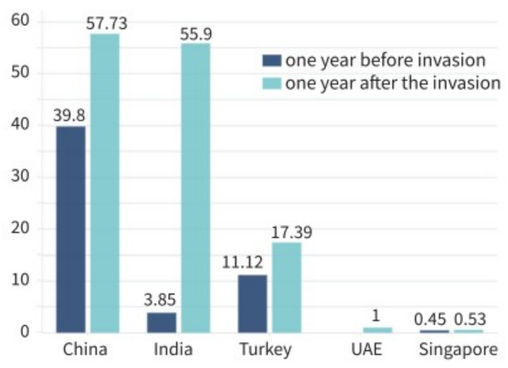
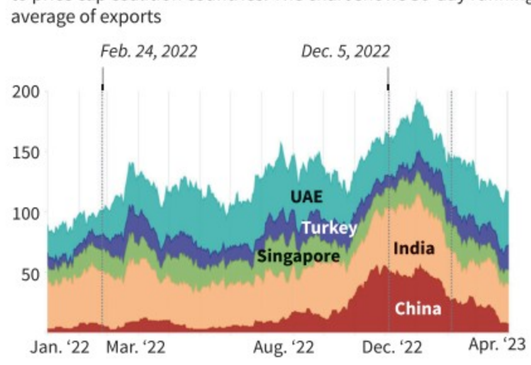


Chart 2: The chart shows the monthly oil product exports (in thousand tonnes per day) from the five "laundromat" countries to price cap coalition countries. The chart shows 30-day running average of exports



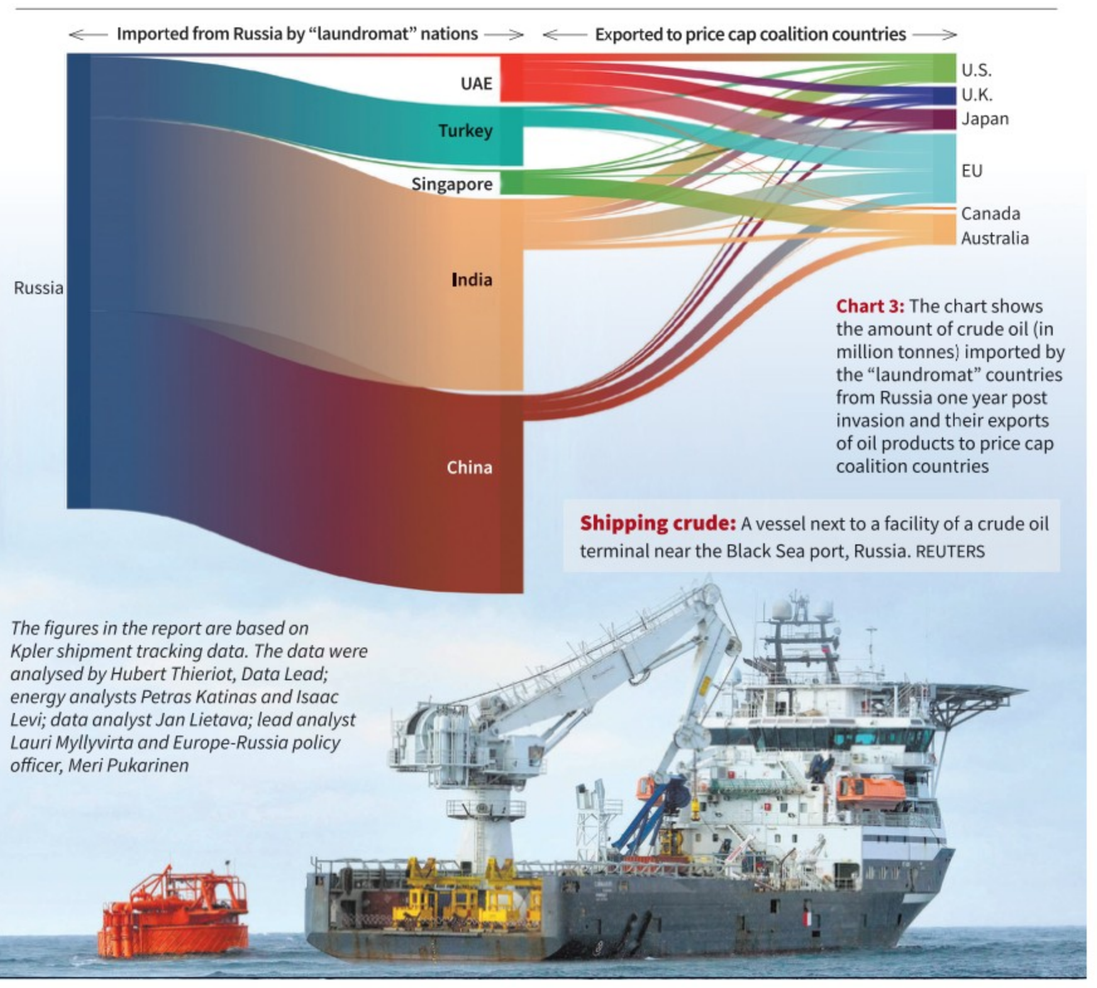


Chart 3: The chart shows the amount of crude oil (in million tonnes) imported by the "laundromat" countries from Russia one year post invasion and their exports of oil products to price cap coalition countries

Shipping crude: A vessel next to a facility of a crude oil terminal near the Black Sea port, Russia. REUTERS

The figures in the report are based on Kpler shipment tracking data. The data were analysed by Hubert Thieriot, Data Lead; energy analysts Petras Katinas and Isaac Levi; data analyst Jan Lietava; lead analyst Lauri Myllyvirta and Europe-Russia policy officer, Meri Pukarinen

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 4, 1973

Golden jubilee of 'Mathrubhumi'

Calicut, May 3: The 'Mathrubhumi', which celebrates its golden jubilee on Friday was the first Malayalam daily newspaper to come out from Malabar and it has become an institution by now. The jubilee celebrations are being inaugurated in Cochin tomorrow by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Mathrubhumi was launched by political leaders like K.P. Kesava Menon, K. Madhavan Nair, K.N. Nambudiripad, P. Ramunni Menon, P. Achuthan, T.V. Sundara Aiyar and A. Karunakara Menon, soon after the Malabar rebellion of 1921, to champion the cause of freedom to inculcate a spirit of service to the motherland and to forge communal amity. The beginning was very small, though the Mathrubhumi Printing and Publishing Company was registered as a public company with its office at Calicut and with authorised capital of Rs. 1 lakh (20,000 shares of Rs. 5 each). When the paper was launched, the subscribed capital was a mere Rs. 11,390. On a worn-out printing press, the paper made its debut on March 17, 1923, as a tri-weekly with Mr. K.P. Kesava Menon as its first Editor (He is the Chief Editor now). The condition improved and seven years later, on April 6, 1930, on the historic Dandi March day, the paper became a daily. It increased its circulation and became a red rag to the British bull. An annoyed Madras government once banned the paper in March 1942.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 4, 1923

Slave trade

London, May 2: A White Paper has been issued containing the correspondence with regard to slavery in Abyssinia and relating chiefly to the capture of a Dhow off the Hedjaz Coast which had 26 slaves abroad. They had been purchased in the interior of Abyssinia and shipped at Tajura in French Somalia for the Arabian Coast. The Abyssinian Regent, Ras Taffari, gave assurances that his government was very desirous of catching and punishing slave traders. A report of the British Legation at Adis Abira, dated March 26, 1922, says that the statement that the slave trade in Abyssinia was increasing is inaccurate as the districts which produce slaves are being gradually depopulated and the frontiers of Abyssinia now march everywhere with those of the civilised power.

From Page One

Centre ready to ease living of gay couples

The court said the Centre's offer of a forum to address the day-to-day human concerns of the same-sex community would ensure that the petitioners' movement does not hit a wall, even if they may fail in their endeavour in court.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for the petitioners, said the LGBTQIA+ community was happy to accept the "low-hanging fruit" the government is willing to offer by forming a committee, which may do some "administrative tweaking" of office orders or circulars. "But you [Constitution Bench] need to declare the real, symbolic and actual meaning of marriage for the same-sex community," Mr. Singhvi said.

"Ninety-nine per cent of same-sex couples want to get married. Marriage will give their relationship meaning, purpose and identity," senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, for a gay couple, submitted.

Justice S. Ravindra Bhat asked the petitioners to consider the government's proposal as a "building block" for future changes.

"The government, though reluctant to give same-sex relationships the status of marriage, is not reluctant to sort out the human concerns arising out of them," Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said.

Justice Hima Kohli said the petitioners should not go for an "all-or-none approach" and finally reach a dead end.

SC sets aside stay on Amaravati scam inquiry

On Wednesday, a Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice M.R. Shah agreed with the State's submission that the High Court had "misinterpreted and misconstrued" the two notifications issued by the government. The Bench observed that the High Court had, while granting the stay, not considered the fact that the State government had already made a representation to the Centre to refer the probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The Centre, the court noted, was yet to take a call on the letter and the consent given by the State government. Justice Shah concluded that the High Court ought not to have granted the stay on the entire probe at such a premature stage.

Setting aside the High Court stay, the Bench said it was not making any observations on the merits of the case.

It asked the High Court to examine the matter on its merits without being influenced by any remarks in the top court judgment. The top court said the Centre was "a proper and necessary party" to be arraigned in the High Court.

Services sector had best expansion in 13 years

Business confidence which had plummeted to an eight-month low in March, revived a bit in April. Close to 22% of surveyed companies forecast growth of business activity over the course of the coming 12 months, compared with 2% that anticipate a reduction, S&P Global said.

"India's service sector posted a remarkable performance in April, with demand strength backing the strongest increases in new business and output in just under 13 years," noted Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. "One area of weakness highlighted in the latest results was the labour market. Despite the substantial pick-up in sales growth and improved business sentiment towards the outlook, the increase in employment seen in April was negligible and failed to gain meaningful traction," she added.

The services sectors' performance lifted overall output in India's private sector to the highest level since July 2010, with aggregate sales also rising at the fastest pace in almost 13 years. The S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index rose from 58.4 in March to 61.6 in April. The S&P Global Manufacturing PMI had risen to a four-month high of 57.2 in April.

Scuffle breaks out between wrestlers, police

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Pranav Tayal said, "During the protest at Jantar Mantar, Mr. Somnath Bharti [AAP MLA] came at the protest site along with folding beds without permission. On intervention, the supporters became aggressive in trying to get the beds out of the truck. Subsequently, a minor altercation took place in which Mr. Somnath Bharti along with two others was detained."

Taking to Twitter, Mr. Bharti said, "Strange is the situation. BJP's MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is out and enjoying in spite of having a POCSO FIR against him but just because I supported the demand of women wrestlers for a foldable cot to avoid rain drenched site of Jantar Mantar, I have been detained."

Gopal Tiwari, one of the protest organisers, told *The Hindu* that one Rahul Yadav, who is also a wrestler, was injured in the attack. "We got cots due to rain and water logging, but the police started throwing them here and there. Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat reached there and one three-star officer started abusing them," he said.

Two shot down, infiltration bid foiled in J&K, says Army

The militants had crossed the Line of Control in the Machhal Sector in Kupwara, it says; two AK series rifles, magazines and huge quantities of ammunition recovered from them

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Sizeable stash: Arms and ammunition recovered from the dead militants in Kupwara district on Wednesday. ANI

Amid heightened security ahead of the G-20 meet in Kashmir, two infiltrators were killed in an anti-militancy operation at Kupwara in north Kashmir on Wednesday.

"Around 8.30 a.m., terrorists were sighted by the troops having infiltrated into our side of the Line of Control in the Machhal Sector. Intense firefight ensued resulting in elimination of two terrorists. The bodies were recovered along with two AK series rifles, magazines and huge quantities of ammunition," Srinagar-based Army spokesman Lt. Col. Emron Musavi said.

The identity of the terrorists and their affiliation were being ascertained.

"This successful intelligence-based operation is yet another example of close synergy between Indian Army, J&K Police and all agencies. The security forces stand steadfast to defeat the nefarious designs of inimical elements supported by our adversary to disrupt peace and harmony of the area," the Army said.

According to the Army, the operation was based on a specific intelligence input provided by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Kupwara, about likely infiltration from a terrorist launch pad across the LoC.

"Troops were put on high alert on May 1. A well-coordinated counter infiltration grid was put in place in this rugged and extremely difficult area. A number of additional ambushes, including those of Indian Army and SOG Kupwara, was placed along the likely routes of infiltration," the Army said.

The Kerala Story: SC tells petitioners to approach High Court for disclaimer

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a petition by the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind to direct the makers of the movie *The Kerala Story* to carry a disclaimer that it is a work of fiction.

Responding to an urgent mention to list the case early, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud asked the Jamiat and other petitioners to instead move the jurisdictional High Court, possibly under Article 226 (writ petition) of the Constitution. "There are seasoned judges in High Courts... Why don't you go there? Why should we become a super 226 court?" the CJI asked advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for the Jamiat.

The Bench gave the petitioners the liberty to move the High Court. It requested the jurisdictional High Court concerned to consider the case for early listing if a petition is filed. The petitioners sought a copy of the top court order to be made available so that they could approach the High Court by afternoon. The film is scheduled to be released on May 5.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, for the movie makers, said they were not ready to carry such a disclaimer. The movie claims it is "inspired by true events". During the brief minutes of the mentioning, the CJI noted this was a film and the petitioners were seeking to "excise" portions of it.

Ms. Grover said their request for a disclaimer was balanced. She noted that the movie tended to "demonise" the entire Muslim community.

India slips in press freedom index, ranks 161 out of 180 nations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

World Press Freedom Index is to compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by media.

India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by the global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF). In comparison, Pakistan has fared better when it comes to media freedom as it was placed at 150, an improvement from last year's 157th rank. In 2022, India was ranked at 150.

Sri Lanka also made significant improvement on the index, ranking 135th this year as against 146th in 2022.

Norway, Ireland and Denmark occupied the top three positions in press freedom, while Vietnam, China and North Korea constituted the bottom three.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) comes out with a global ranking of press freedom every year. RSF is an international NGO whose self-proclaimed aim is to defend and promote media freedom. Headquartered in Paris, it has consultative status with the United Nations. The objective of the World Press Freedom Index, which it releases every year, "is to compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories" in the previous calendar year.

RSF defines press freedom as "the ability of journalists as individuals and collectives to select, produce, and disseminate news in the public interest independent of political, economic, legal, and social interference and in the absence of threats to their physical and mental safety".

Concerns arise

The Indian Women's Press Corps, the Press Club of India, and the Press Association released a joint statement voicing their concern over the country's dip in the index.

"The indices of press freedom have worsened in several countries, including India, according to the latest RSF report," the joint statement said.

"The constraints on press freedom due to hostile working conditions like contractorisation have to also be challenged. Insecure working conditions can never contribute to a free press," it added.

(With PTI inputs)

SC questions govt. on third extension given to ED chief Mishra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday quizzed the government about the third extension given to Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra, asking whether "one person can be so indispensable".

"Is there no other person in the organisation who can do his job? What will happen post 2023, when he does retire?" a three-judge Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai asked the Centre.

At one point, the court remarked that the country had gone on despite the assassination of a Prime Minister years ago.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the government, said Mr. Mishra's extension was vital for India's evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The petitions filed by Congress party spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala, Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra, social activist and general secretary of Madhya Pradesh Congress Mahila Committee Jaya Thakur have argued that the "piecemeal" extensions affect "institutional independence".

Mr. Mishra is expected to continue till November 18, 2023.

SC Collegium rejects IB observation about candidate for HC judgeship

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has shown that the published opinions of a former senior who is critical about the government will not affect the prospects of a lawyer to become a High Court judge.

The Collegium has recommended the name of Firdosh Phiroze Pooniwalla, an advocate, for Bombay High Court judgeship.

Though the Intelligence Bureau (IB) found nothing adverse about his image or integrity, it flagged an article written by Mr. Pooniwalla's former senior at the Bar in 2020 "expressing concerns over the alleged lack of freedom of speech/expression in the country in the last five-six years".

"The views which have been expressed by a former senior of Shri Pooniwalla have no bearing on his own competence, ability or credentials for appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Bombay," the Collegium said, finding the advocate suitable for appointment as High Court judge.

Moreover, the Collegium reasoned that Mr. Pooniwalla and his former senior did not share an employee-employer relationship as both practised on the Original side of the High Court which allowed juniors associated with a chamber to have their own independent legal practice. Mr. Pooniwalla and two other advocates, Shailesh Pramod Brahme and Jitendra Shantilal Jain, have been recommended for appointment as Bombay High Court judges.

Collegium lists 11 points which provide an insight into what it looks for while evaluating candidates

Separately, in a resolution proposing Justice Robin Phukan as a permanent judge of the Gauhati High Court, the Collegium lists 11 points which provide an insight into what it looks for while evaluating the judgments of candidates in its zone of recommendation.

The 11 factors include judgments which are well articulated and structured with proper recording of facts, clear identification of issues and reasoned answers to them, apt advertence to the law, due consideration and application of mind to the submissions made by lawyers in court, adequate reference to the material and relevant pleadings, appreciation of 'circumstantial evidence' and appropriate compliance with 'sentencing'.

The Collegium said Justice Phukan's judgment had clarity with precision and lucidity.

Delhi court summons BBC, Wikipedia, Internet Archives in case filed by BJP leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday issued summons to the BBC, Wikipedia and Internet Archives on a defamation suit filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Binay Kumar Singh in connection with a two-part documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots and India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The summons were issued by Additional District Judge Ruchika Singla.

"Issue summons of the suit for settlement of issues to the defendant," the judge said, posting the matter for further hearing on May 11.

The defendant was directed to file a written statement within 30 days from the date of service of the summons.

'Unfounded allegations'

According to the defamation complaint of Mr. Kumar, who is the State executive committee member of the BJP in Jharkhand, the BBC documentary *India: The Modi Question* defamed organisations such as the RSS, the VHP and the BJP. "That the allegations made against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) are motivated by a malicious intent to defame the organisations and its millions of members. Such unfounded allegations are not only baseless but also have the potential to damage the reputation and image of the RSS, VHP and its millions of members/volunteers, who have committed themselves to upholding the cultural, social and national values of India," the complainant said.

It further added that the assertion in the documentary that Mr. Modi was directly responsible for the alleged atrocities against a particular community during the riots in Gujarat in 2002 was an unfounded and defamatory statement.

TRAI chairperson Vaghela eyes reduced compliance burden for broadcasters

Aroon Deep
MUMBAI

There should ideally be "complete forbearance" in regulating broadcast tariffs, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) chairperson P.D. Vaghela said on Wednesday.

However, Mr. Vaghela added that there were "diverging interests" among different players in the industry, with broadcasters and satellite TV operators asking for forbearance, and local cable operators (LCOs) and multi-system operators (MSOs) demanding regulations on subscription prices they are charged by channels.

"Whether we like it or not, LCOs have a problem, and they have to be protected," Dr. Vaghela said, referring to cable operators losing subscribers.

Cable opearators demand regulations on subscription prices they are charged by channels

Mr. Vaghela was speaking at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Frames 2023 event in Mumbai, with Tata Play CEO Harit Nagpal. Tata Play last month complained in a letter to TRAI about falling broadband prices with free live-streamed channels affecting the satellite TV and cable business.

"Should regulation and levies be dependent on technology used instead of product being delivered," Mr. Nagpal asked, alluding to a growing concern among the television distribution industry that cheap broadband and free live-streamed channels at home are undercutting them without facing the same regulatory scrutiny.

"Should we go for regulation for the new players," Dr. Vaghela asked. "I would scoff at the idea. I would not like to see that new players are regulated. Present players can be given some sort of relief," he suggested. Dr. Vaghela said that relaxations for broadcasters was essential, and that a consultation would soon come out on the subject of concerns faced.

Wrestlers seek SC nod to file documents in sealed cover

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Counsel for women wrestlers alleging sexual harassment against Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Wednesday sought permission to file documents in a sealed cover.

The request came in an oral mentioning before Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for Delhi Police, said the petitioners ought to approach the investigating officer with the documents. Counsel said he was ready to share the documents with the Solicitor-General. The court said the case was coming for hearing on May 4, and it would consider the request.

On April 28, the police informed the court that it would register an FIR on the basis of the wrestlers' allegations.

The court tasked the Delhi Police Commissioner to evaluate the security situation and provide protection to the grapplers, especially a minor.

Jaishankar to hold talks with Chinese, Russian Ministers today

He will also host the Pakistan Foreign Minister but a one-on-one meet is unlikely; bilateral meetings, events ahead of SCO Foreign Ministers' meet could see some awkward moments given the strains between many of the member countries

Suhasini Haidar
BENAULIM (GOA)

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will hold talks with the Foreign Ministers of China, Russia and Uzbekistan and the Secretary-General of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Zhang Ming, here on Thursday.

He will also come face-to-face with Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for the first time since they had a verbal spat at the UN Security Council in December.

The Ministers, including the Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, will all hold bilateral meetings during the day and attend a cultural performance and dinner hosted by Mr. Jaishankar at the Taj Exotica resort in south Goa in the evening, events that could see some awkward moments given strains between many of the member countries. A meeting of SCO Foreign Ministers will be held on Friday.

Vital meeting: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang in New Delhi. @MEAINDIA

This is the first time Mr. Jaishankar will meet Mr. Bhutto in India, and also the first such meeting since the Poonch terror attack, which the Army has held Pakistan responsible for. India-Pakistan relations hit their lowest point in 2019, when High Commissioners were recalled and trade ties snapped. Mr. Bhutto's visit marks the first by a Pakistani Foreign Minister to India in 12 years.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will arrive just a day after Russian forces shot down two UAVs in what it called an alleged assassination attempt on President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin, and is expected to seek strong condemnation of the attack from the SCO countries.

South Block will be keen to see if Mr. Lavrov echoes Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu's speech at the SCO Defence Ministers' gathering last week, where he criticised the 'Quad' grouping of the U.S., India, Australia and Japan.

Diplomacy watch

Sources confirmed that Mr. Jaishankar will meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang for a bilateral meeting, which will also be watched closely for any handshakes.

At the meeting last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was seen pointedly greeting his Chinese counterpart with a *Namaste*, rather than the handshake he shared with all other counterparts. It was seen as a mark of India's displeasure over the lack of movement in India-China border talks.

Meanwhile, Mr. Qin will also be meeting Central Asian counterparts, days after the Chinese Ambassador to France sparked an uproar when he questioned the "sovereign status" of nations that were formerly part of the Soviet Union.

While the Chinese Foreign Ministry walked back from the statement a day later, it will be left to Mr. Qin to smooth over the controversy during his time in Goa.

Among the first of the guests to arrive will be Mr. Lavrov, who is set to meet Mr. Jaishankar, Mr. Qin and Mr. Bhutto during the day. Mr. Qin and Mr. Bhutto will fly from Goa to Islamabad later on Friday where Mr. Qin is expected to hold a number of talks on strategic issues, and also hold a trilateral on Afghanistan, attended by Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mottaqi.

To that end, SCO discussions on Afghanistan at the Goa meet will be significant, especially on the subject of recognition for the Taliban regime. As host, Mr. Jaishankar is expected to meet each of his guests, although neither Indian nor Pakistani officials held out much hope of a bilateral meeting between him and Mr. Bhutto.

Boosting ties: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart Mariya Didi at the ceremony in Male on Wednesday. PTI

Rajnath lays foundation stone for Coast Guard Harbour in Maldives

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart, Mariya Didi, on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the Maldives National Defence Forces Coast Guard 'Ekatha Harbour'.

The development of the Coast Guard Harbour and repair facility at Sifavaru is one of the biggest grant-in-aid projects of India, a joint press communique issued at the end of Mr. Singh's three-day tour said. This is the first visit of an Indian Defence Minister to the island nation in 11 years.

"Both Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security in the region and recognised the need to work together to address common security challenges. They underscored the importance of respecting international law and rules-based international order and expressed their commitment to upholding these principles," it said.

The Ministers agreed to explore additional avenues for cooperation, including in the areas of defence trade, capacity building and joint exercises, the communique said.

Deciphering the 'Pawar game' and family power play

NEWS ANALYSIS

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Senior politician Sharad Pawar's decision to step down as president of the Nationalist Congress Party and not contest any future elections has sent shockwaves through the political landscape – not just in Maharashtra, but across the country.

The development should not be seen as a spur-of-the-moment move by the 82-year-old, as is reflected by his crafty and calculated approach to politics. It is likely part of a larger plan to assert his authority within the NCP.

A similar move was pulled off by Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray almost three decades ago. However, after Shiv Sainiks begged their *Wagh* (tiger) to reconsider his decision, Mr. Thackeray agreed to their request and forever stamped his authority on his party.

However, close confidants of the NCP patriarch said that he would not step back, but would continue to run the show from outside. Mr. Pawar's nephew and senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar gained traction after he told party workers that there was no need to get emotional. "Pawar *saheb* will continue to guide the party even after resigning, like Sonia Gandhi who remains the supreme authority [in the Congress] in spite of relinquishing the top post," he said.

Political analyst and senior journalist Nikhil Wagle, who has been observing the rise of the NCP for decades, says that the senior Mr. Pawar's announcement of his intent to quit as party president can also be seen as a move to put pressure on his nephew and show him that he was the 'boss', especially given the speculation that Mr. Ajit Pawar is in talks with the BJP.

"It was indeed a shock to everyone, not just in Maharashtra, but across the country. Mr. [Sharad] Pawar is the tallest leader Maharashtra has ever seen after Mr. Thackeray, and we can say he is playing the 'Pawar Game' in his own style," he told *The Hindu*.

Sharad Pawar

Mr. Wagle claimed that the NCP supremo was playing pressure politics with his nephew, who was trying to join hands with the BJP along with a chunk of the NCP, with the hope of becoming Chief Minister in case Eknath Shinde and his 15 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs get disqualified in the Sena vs Sena case pending with the Supreme Court.

"It is a perfect example of pressure politics, which Mr. [Sharad] Pawar had played emotionally to tackle the issue. In a way, the senior has left no room for Mr. Ajit Pawar to think of joining hands with BJP, which will be political suicide for him," he said.

Mr. Pawar also addressed the deeper internal power struggle within his family in a suave and sophisticated style by paving the way for his nephew to take over the leadership at the State level, as a means of maintaining unity within the NCP.

However, one of the biggest concerns following Mr. Pawar's announcement is the impact it will have on the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi, an unlikely coalition of the NCP, the Congress and their ideological opposite, the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray.

With the senior statesman Mr. Pawar no longer party chief, there is no one person to keep the already crumbling MVA glued together ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly polls.

"He might not be the president of NCP on paper, but he will continue to be their leader and lead MVA. Until 2019, no one would have ever imagined Shiv Sena joining hands with Congress and NCP, but he had made it possible, and there is no doubt that he will continue to hold us together," a senior NCP leader said.

Even if the party break ranks with the MVA and joins forces with the BJP despite Mr. Pawar's attempts to keep the NCP family intact, the octogenarian leader does not want this to happen during his tenure and wants to avoid any association with such a move.

Moreover, Mr. Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule, a member of the Lok Sabha from Baramati, will continue to play a major role in the party's leadership at the national level. A senior NCP leader also suggested that she should become the national president, while her cousin heads the State unit.

'SEBI should get clarity on foreign funds in Adani Group'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) should use all means at its disposal to get clarity about the ultimate beneficial ownership of foreign funds invested in the Adani Group, the Congress said on Wednesday.

In a statement, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said public interest must not be undermined using the excuse of confidentiality and privacy. The statement came after a news report claimed some foreign funds invested in Adani Group have declined to identify their beneficial owners, citing client confidentiality and foreign privacy laws.

The Congress leader said that all these developments make a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the charges even more important.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C),
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022.
Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-2261/01/2023/ 13070 dated: 28/04/2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the work : Construction of SFRC Compound Wall for Choudwar land for Industrial Area.
2. Estimated cost : Rs. 299.72 lakh (Approx.)
3. Period of completion : 03 (Three) Calendar months.
4. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID/Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E -15/2023-24.	08.05.2023 at 17.00 Hrs	24.05.2023 upto 17.00 Hrs

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal. www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C).
IDCO, Bhubaneswar.
CAD-425 OIPR-14003/11/0026/2324

राजस्थान पशु चिकित्सा और पशु विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर
Feed Ingredient की आपूर्ति हेतु दर संविदा
(ई-बोली आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 01/2023-24 (क्रमांक 173 दिनांक 27.04.2023))
इस विश्वविद्यालय के अधीनस्थ ईकाइयों में Feed Ingredient की आपूर्ति हेतु दो कवर बिड (तकनीकी व वित्तीय बिड) से ऑनलाईन ई–बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसमें पंजीकृत फर्मों हेतु डी.एस.सी. के माध्यम से दिनांक 28.04.2023 से 17.05.2023 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक बोली प्रपत्र डाउनलोड कर अपलोड कर सकते है। UBN No. : VAU2324GLOB00011 का विस्तृत विवरण स्टेट पोर्टल की वेबसाईट http://sppp.raj.nic.in विभाग की वेबसाईट www.rajuvas.org एवं www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
राज.संवाद/सी/23/1670 वित्त नियंत्रक

Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
NOTICE
All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in / respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in), CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा
क्रमांक : 223 दिनांक : 27.04.2023
संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या- 26/2022-23
इस कार्यालय के निविदा सूचना संख्या- 26/2022-23 के पत्रांक 4470 दिनांक 24.03.2023 एवं संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 180 दिनांक 20.04.2023 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र.सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 03.04.2023 से 01.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 03.04.2023 से 08.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
2	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख 03.04.2023 से 01.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाइन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख 03.04.2023 से 08.05.2023, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
3	ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 03.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 10.05.2023 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक
4	बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443–00–108–00–00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102 - (16)– [02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 01.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक सम्बन्धित अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।	बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443–00–108–00–00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रू. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102 - (16)– [02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 08.05.2023 सायं 6.00 बजे तक सम्बन्धित अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) शपथ पत्र रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी। UBN No. PWD2223WLOB19628, PWD2223WLOB19629, PWD2223WLOB19630
(नारायण सिंह मीणा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
DIPR/C/6227/23 सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

Office of Additional Chief Engineer PHED,
Region Bharatpur
Telephone No 05644-222731, 221500, Email: rj_acebha@nic.in
Shorter Notice Inviting Bid No. 15 to 21/2023-24
Online bids for NIT No. 15 to 21/2023-24 (07 works), Costing Rs. 1637.04 Lacs is invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from eligible enlisted in appropriate class contractors of PHED, Rajasthan and meeting eligibility criteria. Contractors enlisted with other departments of Government of Rajasthan and enlisted with CPWD/Postal/Telecom/Railways/MES/other State Government/ Central Government undertakings/ organization in class equivalent to "A/AA" class of Rajasthan (as applicable) and meeting prescribed eligibility criteria may also apply. Details of this Bid notification and pre-qualification criteria can also be seen in NIB exhibited on web site www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. Bids are to be submitted online electronic format on web site http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from 23-04-2023 to 04-05-2023 (6PM) & Bids are to be opened at 11.00 AM on 05-05-2023.
NIB Code: PHE2324A0400
UBN No.:
1. PHE2324WSOB00984 2. PHE2324WSOB00985
3. PHE2324WSOB00986 4. PHE2324WSOB00987
5. PHE2324WSOB00988 6. PHE2324WSOB00989
7. PHE2324WSOB00990
(Ram Niwas Meena)
Addl. Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/6241 PHED, Region Bharatpur

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
PWD CIRCLE, PRATAPGARH
Email:sepratap@gmail.com Tel. No. 01478-294178
No. 34 Date- 21-4-23
Corrigendum Notice Inviting Bid No. 07/2022-23
NIB code PWD2223A4982
Bids for 6 works of road works are invited from interested bidders upto 6:00 PM of 04/05/2023 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the Rajasthan state; and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1604.00 lakhs.
UBN No. PWD2223WSOB20289, PWD2223WSOB20290, PWD2223WSOB20291, PWD2223WSOB20292, PWD2223WSOB20293, PWD2223WSOB20294
Superintending Engineer,
DIPR/C/6186 PWD Circle, Pratapgarh

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग खण्ड सूरतगढ़
दूरभाष : 01509-220069, ई-मेल : xensog.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक : 232 दिनांक : 21.04.2023
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01 वर्ष 2023-24
NIB Code : PWD2324A0211 (सड़क निर्माण कार्य)
Bid for :- Construction of BT Road for unconnected village Block Suratgarh Distt. Sriganganagar under Package No. RJ-31-01/UCV/RR/2023-24 of road work in PWD Division Suratgarh are invited from interested bidders from dated 24.04.2023 to 15.05.2023 upto 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and departmental website. The approximate value of above 01 No. work procurement is Rs. 310.81 Lakhs.
1. PWD2324WSOB00915
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/6166/23 सानिवि खण्ड सूरतगढ़

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग खण्ड, खेतड़ी
क्रमांकः 161-166 दिनांकः 26.04.2023
निविदा संशोधन सूचना संख्या 22 वर्ष 2022-23
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 6552-63 दिनांक 31.03.2023 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 22 वर्ष 2022-23 आमंत्रित की गई थी, जिसकी निविदा जमा करवाने एवं निविदा को खोलने की तिथि 27.04.2023 थी। उक्त निविदा में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है—

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित दिनांक एवं समय	संशोधित दिनांक एवं समय
निविदा जमा की तारीख	31.03.2023 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 27.04.2023 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक	31.03.2023 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 05.05.2023 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तारीख	27.04.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे	05.05.2023 सायं 05.00 बजे

NIB NO.: PWD2223A5063
UBN NO.: 1. PWD2223WSOB20527, 2. PWD2223WSOB20528
3. PWD2223WSOB20529, 4. PWD2223WSOB20530
5. PWD2223WSOB20531, 6. PWD2223WSOB20532
7. PWD2223WSOB20533, 8. PWD2223WSOB20534
निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
डीआईपीआर/सी/6268/2023 अधिशासी अभियंता, सा.नि.वि. खण्ड, खेतड़ी

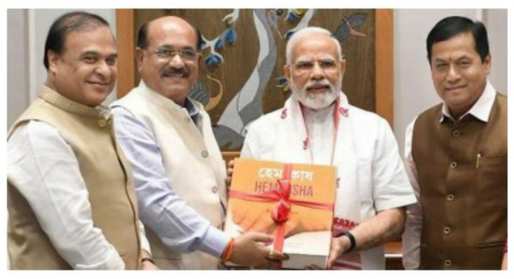
Office of the Project Director (Housing)
Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & Infrastructure Corporation Limited
4-Sa-24, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur-302004 (RAJ.)
Tel & fax : 0141-4001187, E-Mail : rudsico.housing@rajasthan.gov.in
No. :- RUDSICO/PD (H.)/JPR/2023-24/138 Date : 24/04/2023
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for Various Construction works at Dist. Baran & Alwar are invited from interested bidders up to 18:00hrs, 15.05.2023 for Item no. 1 & 2 and for Consultancy work up to 18:00hrs, 04.05.2023 for Item no. 3 under Two bid system on E-procurement for NIT 01/2023-24. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rudsico departmental website. The total approximate value of procurement is Rs. 5459.40 Lacs.
E-NIT No. 01/2023-24
UBN- RDP2324WLOB00001-2 & RDP2324SLOB00003
General Manager (W)
Raj.Samwad/C/23/1398 RUDSICO, Jaipur

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E - TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project Area 1) Request for proposal RFP for Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive Of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram..				
1.	Road ID 185 (MRT Road)	2023_SCTLT_552621_3	Rs.1,66,77,152	08/05/2023
2.	Road ID 31A (Keezhe Thampanoor Road)	2023_SCTLT_551304_2	Rs.3,20,36,478	08/05/2023
3	Road ID 180 & 181 (Kamukuvilakom Road and Ankalamman Nagar)	2023_SCTLT_551497_2	Rs.3,51,84,212	08/05/2023
4	Road ID 100 (Justice Sankaranarayana Street)	2023_SCTLT_551252_3	Rs.2,64,00,214	08/05/2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in
(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd

INBRIEF



Braille version of bilingual dictionary sets a record

A 21-volume Braille version of an Assamese-English dictionary that in total weighs more than 80 kg has become the world's largest lexicon. The authorities of the Guinness World Records on May 1 handed over a certificate to Jayanta Baruah, the publisher of the Braille version of Hemkosh, acknowledging its inclusion in the records register as the world's largest bilingual Braille dictionary. The 123-year-old Hemkosh is the first etymological dictionary of the Assamese language based on Sanskrit spellings, compiled by Mr. Baruah's grandfather, Hemchandra Baruah. A copy of the dictionary, released in September 2022, was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Nitish engaging in politics of appeasement: Bihar BJP chief

Bihar BJP president Samrat Choudhary on Wednesday slammed Chief Minister Nitish Kumar after being denied permission to meet party leader Jawahar Prasad at Sasaram jail in Rohtas district. Mr. Prasad has been arrested in a case related to communal violence in Sasaram town last month following Ram Navami processions. "Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is responsible for the communal violence, be it in Sasaram or other districts. He is engaging in politics of appeasement by sending innocent people to jail. We will fight this battle according to the Constitution and will not allow this government to trouble innocent people," Mr. Choudhary said.

Ex-CMD of Water and Power Consultancy Services held

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested former Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited chairman-cum-managing director Rajinder Kumar Gupta and his son for allegedly amassing wealth disproportionate to known sources of income. The agency has so far seized about ₹38.38 crore in cash, fixed-deposit receipts, keys of bank lockers and details of accounts in various banks. On Tuesday, the agency initiated the searches at multiple locations in Delhi, Gurugram, Chandigarh, Sonipat and Ghaziabad, after registering the case against Mr. Gupta and his family members.

Rat bite: cinema hall told to compensate customer

The authorities of a cinema hall in Guwahati have been asked to compensate a woman who had to undergo treatment after being bitten by a rat while watching a movie five years ago. The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Kamrup, on April 25 directed officials of Galleria Cinema in Guwahati to pay the woman a total of ₹67,282.48 as reimbursement of her medical expenses, compensation for pain and mental agony, and the cost of proceedings in the case. The woman, an academic, had approached the consumer's forum against the cinema hall operators for deficiency in service.

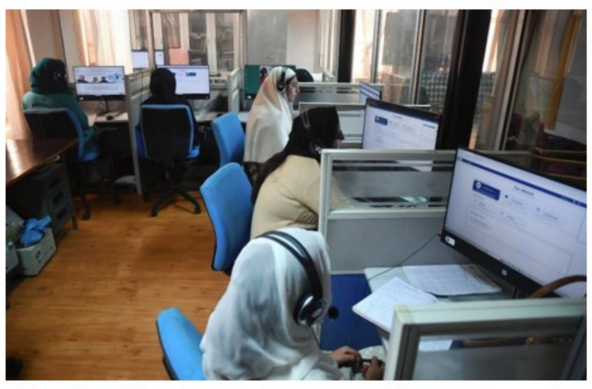
Tele Manas counsels Kashmir's distressed souls

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

On April 26, it took Areeba (name changed to protect privacy), a counsellor at the Tele Manas helpline in Srinagar, over 40 minutes to talk a caller out of self-harm. "The 26-year-old labourer from Baramulla in north Kashmir had a blade in his pocket. The person he worked for had not paid him, and he faced acute financial stress. His sister helped to take the blade away. We made him pause and introspect – we helped him see the light at the end of a dark tunnel," Areeba said.

Over the past six months, the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) in Srinagar has received 10,500 calls on the helpline from people in distress across Jammu and Kashmir. The 24x7 toll-free numbers are 14416 and 1800-891-4416.

The service was started in Srinagar as a mental health care service by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2022. It now has six psychologists. The extent of Kashmir's mental health crisis can be gauged from the fact that on the second day of Id-ul-Fitr, an occasion of festivity in the Muslim-majority Union Territory, the centre got 119 distress calls, most of them between 4 p.m. and 11 a.m.



Help at hand: The phone service has been able to serve many who cannot travel to Srinagar for mental health facilities. NISSAR AHMAD

Of the 10,500 calls attended to since last November, nearly 3,000 reported acute stress, and contemplated self-harm or violence. Most of these callers were aged between 20 and 30. Up to 65% were women, who expressed feelings of loneliness and spoke about marriage conflict, post-partum stress, relationship trouble, and parental disagreements. For men, unemployment and financial distress triggered the calls.

Exam stress

"Last month, we received a number of calls related to examination stress," Hina Hajini, a psychiatrist working with IMHANS, said. The centre arranged 2,500 follow-up calls in serious cases.

"It would take people living in far-off areas two days to reach mental health care in Srinagar. Now, basic issues are handled on a call," she said.

Besides mental health issues, the centre also talks about taboo subjects in conservative Kashmir. "We are able to destigmatise topics such as dating, sexuality and sexual orientation. Women talk about their issues freely now," Manaal Andrabi, a psychologist from IMHANS, said.

In the wake of the growing response, the facility is being expanded to other regions too.

"One more Tele Manas centre is under process in Jammu. Tele Manas is being linked to the district mental health programme across all J&K," Qazi Haroon, State Programme Manager, Mental Health, J&K, said.

An online chatbot will be rolled out to address the needs of the people, which will be available on the existing numbers.

Govt. to bring out manual for organ donation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) is working on a transplant manual as a step-by-step guide for the implementation of organ donation and transplantation programmes in hospitals and a standard course for training of transplant coordinators. Both these documents will be completed and released soon, the Union Health Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

The statement said verticals for coordination, training and HR/accounts had been created in the NOTTO for better implementation of the programme.

Additionally, the government granted special casual leave of up to 42 days to Union Government employees who donate an organ as a special welfare measure in public interest.

The Ministry said the total number of organ transplants in the country had substantially increased from fewer than 5,000 in 2013 to more than 15,000 in 2022.

"Now, more organs per deceased donor are being utilised due to better coordination through the network of Organ & Tissues Transplant Organisations at national, State and regional level. In the year 2016, 2,265 organs were utilised from 930 deceased donors, while 2,765 could be utilised from 904 deceased donors in the year 2022," the Ministry said.

IMD forecasts a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal next week

First cyclone to form this year will be called Mocha; weather agency says various models suggest that the cyclone could form by May 9 and grow to a severe cyclonic storm the next day

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday said that a cyclone was likely to form in the Bay of Bengal by early next week, but its strength, direction and impact were yet to be gauged.

"A cyclonic circulation is likely to develop over southeast Bay of Bengal around May 6...there is a possibility of the circulation to move northwards towards central Bay of Bengal," the IMD said in a statement. "Further details will be given after the low-pressure is formed."

A low-pressure area is usually a precursor to the development of a cyclone, and according to the IMD's calculations, it is expected to take shape on May 7.

At risk: Fishing boats should avoid the waters of southeast Bay of Bengal after May 7, the IMD has warned. FILE PHOTO

A preliminary analysis available on the IMD website based on its weather models suggests that the cyclone could form by May 9 and grow to a "severe cyclonic storm" by May 10.

The IMD has a five-step classification for cyclones with the relatively weakest classified as a "cyclonic storm" (65-68 kmph) and the strongest a "super cyclonic storm" (>222 kmph). A "severe cyclonic storm" (89-117 kmph) is just one step above a "cyclonic storm".

Depending on the location of the storm and existing weather conditions, it is possible for the storm to gain or reduce in strength. Cyclones are more frequent in India's neighbourhood around May, October and November – or coincident with the advent and departure of the monsoon.

This will be the first cyclone to form this year and it will be called Cyclone Mocha. The name was proposed by Yemen, after the Red Sea port city, following an international convention on naming cyclones.

M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said that while greater clarity on the cyclone would only emerge later, the current warnings were for fishermen. "Seafaring vessels and the fishing community should avoid the waters of southeast Bay of Bengal after May 7 because it will be turbulent."

Curfew in eight districts of Manipur over tribal stir

Press Trust of India
IMPHAL

A curfew was imposed in eight districts of Manipur and mobile Internet services were suspended in the entire northeastern State over the violence during a tribal agitation on Wednesday, officials said.

Violence broke out during a "tribal solidarity march" called by the All Tribal Student Union Manipur (ATSUM) in Torbung area of Churachandpur district to protest against the demand of non-tribal Meiteis, who dominate the Imphal Valley, for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Thousands of agitators took part in the rally, during which violence between tribals and non-tribals was reported in Torbung area, a senior police officer said. Police fired several rounds of tear gas shells to control the mob, the officer said.

Highly pathogenic bird flu virus puts Centre on alert

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Housing one of the largest livestock reserves across the world, India is at "risk and vulnerable" to the ongoing outbreaks of avian influenza (H5N1) worldwide, a worry compounded by the threat of mammalian transmission, officials have said.

"Across the world, the virus is being detected among wild birds and other species, which makes the chance of it mutating and becoming harmful greater," warns the World Economic Forum (WEF) in its latest paper on pandemic and preparedness.

"We are concerned about it. The COVID-19 pandemic taught us that we need to be prepared all the time. If we are caught off guard, anything can happen," said Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, speaking to *The Hindu*. The Central government is now reviewing the H5N1 situation daily.

H5N1, a highly pathogenic subtype of avian influenza, was detected by the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Disease, Bhopal in the samples received from the Government Poultry Farm at Bokaro, Jharkhand on February 17, 2023. India has now initiated the animal pandemic preparedness programme.

"This year has been the worst in numbers and consequent spillover to mammals," said biologist Vinod Scaria.

Dr. Mitra also added that the speed of the spread and the expansion in the range of species affected were causes for worry.

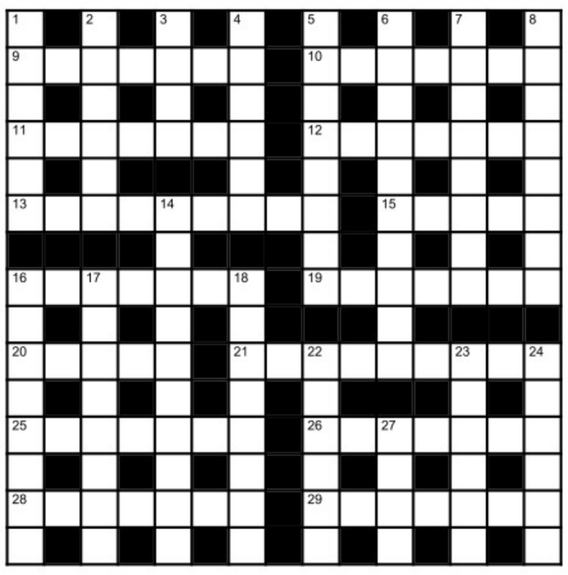
"India has been dealing with influenza since 2006-07 and there is no vaccine for high-pathogenic avian influenza. Currently we have checked 1,500 samples from hotspots such as waterbodies and poultry farms. Out of this only one case was found positive from Alappuzha in Kerala. There is nothing to panic about, but we need to be vigilant. We must strengthen our bio-security measures," added Dr. Mitra.

TH CROSSWORD + 13856

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Articles by weight, are they? Yet hear there is a scramble (7)
10 Finish the game without pain by not using a weapon (7)
11 Old and retired, by shedding anger could become very young (7)
12 Cat straddling a horse, that's the name of the place (7)
13 Dance circle gets university backing (9)
15 Could be panic as water comes down with force (5)
16 Roman historian understood us (7)
19 Lures stars with ease perhaps (7)
20 Strain on every student coming first (5)
21 Found fault, one rejected me for saying "Seize the day" (5,4)
25 Italian city has guts, promulgates change... (7)
26 ...American city tried to copy (7)
28 Country gets a new state (7)
29 Fish I snared at sea (7)

Down

1 Singer's not bad, overall attention is limited (6)
2 Manual and automatic - both inside a carriage (6)
3 Turn half the covers off range (4)
4 With upturned nose, rascal finally became unprincipled (6)
5 Stay with them breaking stone (8)
6 Rascal runs away naked with charm (10)
7 Blue green, time to join in again (2-6)
8 Station, after short period showing sign of decline (8)
14 European cure - there is no free lunch! (5,5)
16 Constriction as this is parted by lips (8)
17 Daily fish, left for another day (8)
18 Group test could be according to the territory (8)
22 Conrad is having a bit of the salad (6)
23 Very famous and active, in charge before and after (6)
24 Calling me on deck (6)
27 Writing in a newspaper giving figures (4)

SUDOKU

				9	2		5	8
							7	3
		9					2	
	1		4		8			9
2			9		6			5
8			2		1		6	
	7					8		
6	8							
9	3		1	8				

No.SS5788 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	5	8	6	9	2	3	7	1
3	1	6	8	4	7	9	5	2
2	7	9	3	1	5	8	4	6
1	9	3	5	2	6	7	8	4
7	4	5	1	8	9	6	2	3
8	6	2	7	3	4	1	9	5
5	2	7	9	6	1	4	3	8
6	3	4	2	7	8	5	1	9
9	8	1	4	5	3	2	6	7

FAITH

Inner beauty of Nrisimha

There are many ways in which our saints and preceptors have celebrated the Supreme Being. One such margam is to treat Him like a fellow human being, as a friend, philosopher and guide. Many of the Azhwars excelled in this form of worship. One cannot help but recall Tirumazhisai Azhwar's beauty pageant for all the ten avatars, said Thirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse.

In keeping with Azhwar's call, all ten avatars – Matsya, Kurma, Varaha, Nrisimha, Vamana, Parasurama, Rama, Balarama, Krishna, and Kalki – duly responded. The process of elimination begins. Gazing upon Kurma, Varaha and Matsya, he says, "You are all non-human manifestations, hence you are ineligible." Nrisimha is half man, half beast, so he is allowed to stay. Next, he tells Vamana, "You asked for three feet of land, used one small step to step on the head, took a giant step with your next, encompassing the universe: where is the guarantee that you will not try something similar in this pageant?" Walking up to Parasuram, he admonishes him for arriving at what was a beauty contest armed with a hammer. The Azhwar states that it was unseemly for two from a family to enter a contest, and Balaram being Krishna's older brother, is asked to leave. Kalki is sent packing as he is yet to take avatar.

Only Rama, Krishna and Nrisimha are left. Rama says, "Am I not Azhagiya Ramam?" Krishna laughs and says, "I am Mohana Krishnan." However, Azhwar says, "Azhagiyan thane, ari urivan thane" in Nanmugan Tiruvandati – the one who came promptly to the rescue of a faithful soul in the guise of a half-man, half-lion is the most beautiful. Praying to Nrisimha protects our inner and outer selves.

YANGON

Myanmar junta pardons more than 2,000 political prisoners

AFP

Myanmar's junta pardoned more than 2,000 political prisoners to mark a Buddhist holiday on Wednesday, triggering tearful reunions outside jails but also demands that the many others behind bars be released. Protesters and journalists were among the 2,153 people freed, a fraction of those targeted in the crackdown on dissent. AFP

BRASILIA

Brazil police raid former President Jair Bolsonaro's home, seize phone

AP

The police in Brazil searched ex-President Jair Bolsonaro's home and seized his cellphone in an investigation into allegations of falsifying COVID-19 vaccination records. Mr. Bolsonaro denied faking a COVID-19 vaccination certificate for himself, accusing the authorities of trying to "fabricate" a case against him. AFP

NEW YORK

U.S. Federal Reserve raises rates by another 25 bp, hints it may be last

AFP

The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point and signalled it may pause further increases, giving officials time to assess bank failures, how the Washington standoff over the U.S. debt ceiling plays out, the course of inflation. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

U.S. pick Ajay Banga confirmed as next president of World Bank

REUTERS

The World Bank confirmed Ajay Banga was selected as its next president on Wednesday, taking charge at a pivotal time for the development lender as it looks to better address climate change. The Bank's board voted to approve his leadership for a five-year term. He will take over the role from David Malpass on June 2. AFP

13-year-old opens fire in classroom in Serbia killing 8 students, guard

The accused, who was arrested after the incident, had drawn sketches of classrooms, made a list of people to be targeted; he had carried two guns belonging to his father and four Molotov cocktails, say officials; six children, teacher hospitalised

Associated Press
BELGRADE

A 13-year-old who opened fire on Wednesday at his school in Serbia's capital drew sketches of classrooms and wrote a list of people he intended to target in a meticulously planned attack, the police said. He killed eight fellow students and a school guard before being arrested. In addition to the nine killed, six children and a teacher were also hospitalised.

The shooter first killed a guard at the school in central Belgrade and then three students in a hallway, according to senior police official Veselin Milic. He then entered a history classroom – apparently choosing it simply because it was close to the entrance – and opened fire again, Mr. Milic said.

Grieving together: Following the shooting, authorities in Serbia have declared three days of nationwide mourning starting Friday. AP

The assailant called the police himself when the attack was over, though authorities received a call reporting the shooting two minutes earlier.

A father of a student said the shooter entered his daughter's classroom, firing at her teacher and then her classmates as they ducked under their desks.

Authorities declared three days of nationwide mourning, starting on Friday.

Sparse incidents

Mass shootings are extremely rare in Serbia and in the wider Balkan region; none were reported at schools in recent years. In the last mass shooting, a Balkan war veteran in 2013 killed 13 persons in a central Serbian village.

Experts, however, have repeatedly warned of the danger posed by the large number of weapons in the country after the wars of the 1990s. They also note that decades of instability stemming from the conflicts as well as the ongoing economic hardship could trigger such outbursts.

The police identified the shooter as Kosta Kecmanovic, who attended the Vladislav Ribnikar school, where students typically range in age from 6 to 15.

Kecmanovic carried two guns belonging to his father – at least one a handgun –and four Molotov cocktails, officials said. The Interior Minister said the weapons were licensed and kept in a safe but the teen, who had been to shooting ranges, apparently knew the code. The father was also arrested.

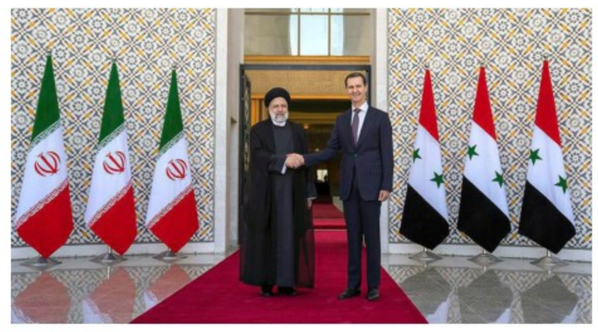
Raisi praises Syria's victory in civil war despite sanctions

Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

Visiting Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi hailed Syria's Bashar al-Assad on Wednesday for overcoming sanctions and achieving "victory" in the country's 12-year-long civil war, in which Tehran has been a major ally.

The Syria conflict has killed more than 5,00,000 people, displaced millions and battered the country's infrastructure and industry. While the front lines have mostly quietened in recent years, large parts of the country's north remain outside government control.

"Syria's government and people have gone through great difficulties, and today we can say that you have overcome all these problems and achieved victory despite the threats and sanctions imposed on you," Mr. Raisi told Mr. Assad, according to a statement from the Syrian presidency and Iran's IRNA news agency.



Timely ties: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, left, and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus, Syria, on Wednesday AP

Helping hand

Tehran has provided economic, political and military support to Syria, helping Damascus claw back most of the territory it lost at the start of the conflict.

Both countries remain under heavy Western sanctions.

Mr. Assad told Mr. Raisi that Syria-Iran ties "were stable and steady during difficult times despite heavy political and security storms that struck the Middle East", according to the statement.

Iran "did not hesitate to provide political and economic support (to Syria), and even offered blood," Mr. Assad added.

UN denounces Taliban's intimidation, attacks on journalists in Afghanistan

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

The Taliban's intimidation, threats and attacks on Afghan journalists are unacceptable, the UN said on Wednesday, as it expressed concern for the future of the country's media.

Many journalists lost their jobs after the Taliban takeover in August 2021, with media outlets closing over a lack of funds or because staff left the country. Women journalists face additional hardships because of work bans and travel restrictions.

During their previous rule in the late 1990s, the Taliban barred most television, radio and newspapers in the country.

The UN mission in Afghanistan said that although journalists continue to work, they are forced to navigate "unclear and often arbitrary boundaries of reporting against an ever-present threat of repression and closure."

Call for solidarity

Its comments coincide with World Press Freedom Day, which is observed May 3.

The UN Secretary General's special representative for Afghanistan, Roza Otunbayeva, said the day was a moment to show solidarity with the Afghan journalists trying to maintain independent reporting.

Deputy Broadcasting Minister Mahajar Farahi denied that journalists face obstacles in Afghanistan, saying the media is carrying out its activities in a normal way.

Belarusian activist who was plucked off flight in 2021 jailed for eight years

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

A Belarusian activist who was arrested in 2021 after his Ryanair flight to Lithuania was forced to land in Belarus has been sentenced to eight years in prison, state media reported on Wednesday.

Roman Protasevich has been accused of coordinating protests against Alexander Lukashenko's regime

"The Minsk regional court has sentenced Roman Protasevich to eight years in a prison colony," Belarusian news agency Belta said.

Prosecutors had asked for a 10-year sentence for Mr. Protasevich, the former editor of an opposition Telegram account.

He has been accused of helping coordinate mass protests against President Alexander Lukashenko's regime in 2020.

The Moscow-allied country, ruled by Mr. Lukashenko since 1994, has cracked down on anyone linked to the protests.

Mr. Protasevich was arrested after his Ryanair flight from Greece to Lithuania was intercepted by a Belarusian fighter jet and forced to land in Minsk.

"He's been the regime's hostage since the Ryanair hijacking," Opposition figure Svetlana Tikhanovskaya said. "The Belarus regime again shows its disregard for justice by sentencing three journalists in a fake trial on PressFreedomDay," she said.

The anatomy of a coronation: A guide to the crowning of King Charles III

EXPLAINER

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The coronation of Britain's King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen Consort, will take place at noon (London time) on Saturday, May 6, at Westminster Abbey, where coronations have taken place for around 900 years.

Prior to this, the King and Queen Consort will undertake a procession from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey for the ceremonies, which are scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. and will be officiated by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The event is expected to conclude at 1 p.m., following which the royal family will watch a fly past from the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

There will be a concert at Windsor Castle on Sunday evening featuring Katie Perry, 'Take That', Andre Bocelli, Lionel Richie and others.

The weekend's events include community lunches on Sunday and volunteer mobilisation activities on Monday – to reflect the King's long running association with community and volunteering activities.

How does this British coronation compare to previous ones?

Apart from the coronation reflecting the individual preferences of the monarch, this year's events "will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry", according to Buckingham Palace.

For instance, at least one of the six coronation 'vestments' will be recycled from George VI's coronation "in the interests of sustainability and efficiency", Buckingham Palace said. Several of the chairs used during the ceremonies will also be restored and reused – such as the Chairs of Estate, which were made in 1953 and used during Queen Elizabeth's coronation.

There will also be traditions dating back hundreds of years. The throne that will be used for the ceremony was built over 700 years ago and used first by Edward the Confessor (whose reign ended in 1066). It sits over a 152 kg stone – the Stone of Scone or the Stone of Destiny, which has been used by Scottish rulers for centuries and was seized by Edward I of England in 1296 (the English and Scottish crowns were unified in 1603). Former U.K. Prime Minister John Major returned the stone to Scotland 700 years later, in 1996, and it was brought back to Westminster Abby last week for the May 6 ceremonies.

In a departure from tradition, Camilla will not wear the Platinum Crown, which has the Koh-i-Noor diamond embedded in it. The crown was set aside, reportedly following concerns that wearing the diamond could cause offence, especially in India, from where the East India Company took it.

The religious landscape of Britain is vastly different today than it was when Charles's mother ascended the throne in 1953. To reflect this, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Buddhist leaders will present the King with coronation regalia and also greet him following the coronation.

Long time coming: A man looks inside a souvenir shop decorated with a flag commemorating the coronation of King Charles III. AP

The British monarch is styled 'Defender of the Faith' – i.e., the Protestant faith espoused by the Church of England. In the 1990s, the King, then Prince Charles, had said, controversially, that he would be a 'Defender of Faith' rather than 'Defender of the Faith' to reflect the changed religious landscape of the country. The preamble to his oath on Saturday will have a reference to the King fostering "an environment in which people of all faiths and beliefs may live freely".

During the coronation, the public will be invited to swear allegiance to the King and "his heirs and successors". This is also a new element to the coronation. While some (such as Members of the U.K. Parliament) have come out in support of this, others have objected.

"In a democracy, it is the head of state who should be swearing allegiance to the people, not the other way around. This kind of nonsense should have died with Elizabeth I, not outlived Elizabeth II," said Graham Smith, CEO of Republic, a group that is campaigning to make the U.K. a Republic.

Who is attending the coronation?

India will be represented by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. The funeral of Queen Elizabeth II was attended by President Droupadi Murmu and the last coronation, six years after India's independence, was attended by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The U.S. will be represented by First Lady Jill Biden – President Joe Biden will not attend, sticking to the tradition of American Presidents skipping the crowning of a British monarch. French President Emmanuel Macron is also on the list as are the heads of government of the commonwealth 'realms' – such as Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia.

European and world royalty will also be in attendance – including the King and Queen of Bhutan, the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan and the Maori King and Queen.

The King's daughter-in-law, Meghan Markle, will be conspicuous by her absence. The Duchess of Sussex will remain in California while her husband, Prince Harry, will attend his father's coronation, months after publishing a revealing memoir, *Spare*, which further strained his and Ms. Markle's relationship with the King and the heir to the throne, Prince William.

Who pays for the coronation?

The U.K. Government, i.e., U.K. taxpayers, will foot the bill for the coronation which is estimated to be £100 million ($125 million). In 1953, the British Government spent £1.57 million or £46 million in today's terms on the late Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953, according to an analysis in *The Times*.

Is the monarchy popular?

A significant majority of Britons think that the U.K. should continue to have a monarchy. An April 26-27 YouGov poll showed that 60% of adults were in support of the institution continuing, while 26% said the country should have an elected head of state (15% were in the "don't know" category).

Support for the monarchy was the highest in England and then Wales. Only 42% of Scottish people surveyed thought the monarchy should continue, with 46% preferring an elected head of state.

Support for the monarchy was the lowest in the 18-24 age group (32% support it while 44% want an elected head of state) and higher in older groups. It was also higher among those who voted to leave the European Union and those who voted for the Conservative Party in the 2019 general election, and slightly higher among women.

Approval ratings for members of the royal family have dropped since the publication of Prince Harry's memoir. These ratings had risen around the death of Queen Elizabeth in September last year. At least 51% of adults think that King Charles will do a good job as monarch, according to March data from Ipsos.

INBRIEF

Facilitated payout of ₹31 cr. to delivery partners, says Swiggy

Swiggy on Wednesday said it had facilitated the payout of a total of ₹31 crore in claim amounts to delivery partners in fiscal 2022-2023. "There is a common misconception that since delivery partners are not employees, they do not have access to healthcare support from Swiggy," said Mihir Shah, head of operations at Swiggy. "For several years now, we have provided carefully considered insurance and other benefits to our delivery partners and their families," he added.

TVS Supply Chain Solutions downsizes IPO to ₹750 crore

TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd. (TVS SCS) has filed a fresh draft red herring prospectus after downsizing its IPO from ₹2,000 crore to ₹750 crore. The firm has already raised primary capital of ₹418 crore. Another commitment of ₹100 crore had been received from a prominent family office in Mumbai, market sources hinted. With about ₹520 crore raised and another ₹750 crore likely from the IPO, TVS SCS sees itself well positioned to capitalise on growth opportunities.

Rane Brake Lining standalone Q4 net contracts 8% to ₹12 cr.

Rane Brake Lining Ltd.'s (RBL) standalone net profit for the quarter ended March contracted 8% from the year-earlier period to ₹12 crore. Revenue from operations grew 7% to ₹165 crore, while cost of materials increased 2% to ₹86 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing. Sales to original equipment customers grew 3%. Sales to aftermarket customers grew 14%. The board recommended a dividend of ₹25 per share, which will be paid by August 3.

'Adapting to climate change to cost India ₹85.6 lakh crore by 2030'

RBI's Department of Economic and Policy Research sees need to cut energy intensity of GDP by 5% annually to achieve net zero target by 2070; green financing requirement estimated to be at least 2.5% of GDP a year to address infrastructure gap

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Green push: India needs a big improvement in its energy-mix in favour of renewables to about 80% by 2070-71, says RBI's DEPR. AP

The cumulative total expenditure for adapting to climate change in India is estimated to reach ₹85.6 lakh crore (at 2011-12 prices) by 2030, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR) said in its Report on Currency & Finance 2022-23.

India's goal of achieving the net zero target by 2070 would require an accelerated reduction in the energy intensity of GDP by about 5% annually and a significant improvement in its energy-mix in favour of renewables to about 80% by 2070-71, the DEPR said in its report themed 'Towards a Greener Cleaner India'.

India's green financing requirement is estimated to be at least 2.5% of GDP annually till 2030 to address the infrastructure gap caused by climate events, and the financial system may have to mobilise adequate resources and also reallocate current resources to contribute effectively to the country's net-zero target., it added.

Results of a climate stress-test reveal that public sector banks (PSBs) may be more vulnerable than private sector banks.. Globally, however, measurement of climate-related financial risks remains a work in progress.

"A pilot survey of key stakeholders in the financial system in India suggests that notwithstanding rising awareness about climate risks and their potential impact on the financial health of entities, risk mitigation plans are largely at the discussion stage and yet to be widely implemented," the RBI's policy researchers added.

Quality control not aimed at stopping imports: Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Piyush Goyal

Union Minister for Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Food Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday that the Centre was implementing Quality Control Orders (QCOs) on several products and services in alignment with world standards. He said the QCOs would help India have the same quality products used worldwide, and hence importers abroad would have confidence in Indian goods.

Mr. Goyal noted that the National Quality Mission included sensitising citizens as part of its agenda so that consumers started demanding good quality products.

The Minister said no new QCOs were introduced without adequate industry consultations. "In the leather and footwear sector, we issued three QCOs in October 2020 after consultations with industries. If in 2.5 years somebody has not yet become compliant, then there is vested interest, which we cannot fulfill," he said, and added that QCOs would help reduce wastage and bring down prices.

"No one has the right to play with the lives of people. No one has the right to dump low-quality products in India," he said.

Mr. Goyal said a perception was being spread that QCOs were being implemented to stop imports.

"It is not true. Our attempt is to change the mindset of the consumers towards quality products," the Minister added.

WTO needs to look at farm subsidy issue with open mind: FM

Press Trust of India
INCHEON

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) should look at the issue of farm subsidies with an open mind as it impacts the food security needs of emerging economies in the backdrop of COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Governor's seminar on 'Policies to support Asia's rebound', Ms. Sitharaman said the sooner a solution is found out by the WTO, the better it would be for the world.

"Since WTO was founded, there has been a grievance with respect to the export of agricultural products and generally in trade, the voice of the Global South and emerging markets has not been heard at par with that of the developed countries," she said. The 'Global South' largely refers to countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

"We will all have to talk again [about food and fertiliser security] at the WTO with an open mind," the Minister said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,193	-0.26
US Dollar	81.80	0.08
Gold	60,750	1.12
Brent oil	71.81	-5.37

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1839.00	-80.85
Adani Ports	669.65	-11.85
Apollo Hosp	4515.45	24.65
Asian Paints	2929.70	30.15
Axis Bank	859.85	-10.80
Bajaj Auto	4447.85	-50.15
Bajaj Finserv	1347.00	-2.05
Bajaj Finance	6180.25	-68.90
Bharti Airtel	779.30	-10.90
BPCL	360.80	-0.30
Britannia Ind	4527.10	16.05
Cipla	920.65	2.95
Coal India	236.90	0.80
Divis Lab	3268.75	15.05
Dr Reddys Lab	4952.25	1.85
Eicher Motors	3348.35	-7.80
Grasim Ind	1735.90	-3.65
HCL Tech	1058.95	-8.60
HDFC	2787.75	-2.25
HDFC Bank	1693.15	5.90
HDFC Life	538.70	-5.80
Hero MotoCorp	2502.65	6.75
Hindalco	442.30	-3.85
Hind Unilever	2486.00	34.30
ICICI Bank	922.85	0.75
IndusInd Bank	1146.15	-4.75
Infosys	1269.15	-8.30
ITC	427.15	2.70
JSW Steel	732.45	-5.45
Kotak Bank	1930.95	9.80
L&T	2356.30	-28.15
M&M	1235.45	-1.85
Maruti Suzuki	8797.30	20.45
NestleIndia	21875.70	129.85
NTPC	176.35	0.75
ONGC	161.15	-3.10
PowerGrid Corp	239.70	-0.40
Reliance Ind	2420.10	-20.95
SBI Life	1136.90	-14.00
State Bank	570.50	-4.80
Sun Pharma	963.60	-9.45
TataConsumerProduct	781.40	1.80
Tata Motors	483.70	3.45
Tata Steel	109.70	-0.60
TCS	3179.90	-39.50
Tech Mahindra	1039.60	-13.85
Titan	2654.05	-9.80
UltraTech Cement	7507.20	50.60
UPL	739.80	-12.70
Wipro	385.10	-3.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
Euro	89.61	89.97
British Pound	101.92	102.32
Japanese Yen (100)	59.48	59.72
Chinese Yuan	11.82	11.87
Swiss Franc	91.04	91.40
Singapore Dollar	61.15	61.40
Canadian Dollar	60.17	60.41
Malaysian Ringitt	18.29	18.38
Australian Dollar	54.68	54.90

Source:Indian Bank

MRF Q4 standalone net jumps to ₹411 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tyre manufacturer MRF Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the quarter ended March more than doubled from the year-earlier period to ₹411 crore on increased sales volume.

Revenue from operations increased 10% to ₹5,725 crore, while cost of materials rose 12% to ₹3,620 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing.

The results included an exceptional gain of ₹80 crore received from subsidiary MRF SG Pte Ltd.

Revenue from operations included subsidiary/ incentives of ₹4.56 crore against ₹87 crore in the year-earlier period.

The tyre maker's board declared a final dividend of ₹169 per share.

JSW Steel arm to invest $145 million in new U.S. projects

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Parth Jindal

JSW Steel USA Ohio, Inc., a subsidiary of JSW Steel Ltd. has announced its plans to invest $145 million in new projects to upgrade its manufacturing operations in Mingo Junction, Ohio.

"JSW Steel USA aims to meet the demand for quality steel products that are "melted & manufactured in the US". This is in alignment with President Biden Administration's Buy America policies," the company said in a statement.

Parth Jindal, Director, JSW Steel USA said, "These new investments reiterate JSW's commitment to a sustainable & green future.The operational upgrades being made at JSW Steel USA are a step towards achieving our long-term ESG goals."

"These investments and projects will help us in producing high-quality 'melted and manufactured in USA' steel products required by our customers in the infrastructure and renewable energy sectors," he added.

These new projects are expected to be completed and commissioned in FY26.

Nexus Select announces ₹3,200 crore public offer

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Nexus Select Trust, the owner of 17 Grade-A malls, has announced an initial public offering for a price of up to ₹100 per unit aggregating up to ₹3,200 crore. The IPO will open on May 9, 2013 and will close on May 11, 2023.

The price band has been fixed from ₹95 per unit to ₹100 per unit. The proceeds from the issue will go towards the partial repayment of loans.

BIP 2023

Media industry grows, but TV revenues remain flat, says EY

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Indian media and entertainment industry will grow to be collectively worth ₹2.8 lakh crore by 2025, Ernst & Young (EY) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) estimated in a report. Live events, and animation and visual effects industries would lead the expansion, with compound annual growth rates of 22.2% and 21.1%, respectively.

Digital media's share of the industry increased to 27% in 2022, from 16% in 2019, EY estimated.

"If one were to include data charges associated with digital consumption... its share would stand at 50%," it said. Subscription revenue from digital media now stood at 45% of the equivalent revenue from TV, EY added. This came even as the share of digital advertising grew to 48% of the overall advertising market, with advertising growth outpacing the expansion in India's GDP.

Television struggles

TV advertising struggled to grow even as other industries bounced back after the pandemic. D2C startups that advertised when flush with initial funds tightened spending after investments eased; curbs on ads for betting and cryptocurrencies shut off another key group of ad buyers; supply shortages in the auto industry led to marketing cuts; and tech firms pared ad spends in India amid global austerity.

Increasing digitisation also hit TV distribution.

"Periods of temporarily suspended connections increased marginally as alternate... options were available on mobile phones," the consulting firm noted.

CIFCL Q4 net rises 24% on strong disbursals

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (CIFCL) has posted a 24% jump in its standalone net profit for the quarter ended March 31 at ₹853 crore, aided by strong disbursals and collections.

Disbursements grew 65% to ₹21,020 crore, while the net income margin climbed 32% to ₹2,060 crore. Total assets under management (AUM) was higher by 36% at ₹1,12,782 crore.

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PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Training to bowl wide yorkers paid off: Ishant after match-winning over

Ishant Sharma revealed that practising wide yorkers paid off during Delhi Capitals' win over Gujarat Giants at Ahmedabad on Tuesday. "We bowl with the new ball, but at the same time we do practice bowling wide yorkers. When we train, we plan for certain batters and it is all about executing it and backing yourself," said Ishant.

BIG WORRY

Super Giants skipper Rahul likely to be ruled out of IPL

LSG skipper K.L. Rahul, in all likelihood, will take no further part in the IPL after sustaining a thigh injury in the team's last game against RCB. Meanwhile, Jaydev Unadkat, too, is ruled out of the league. It is understood that it will be a race against time for the BCCI team to get Rahul ready for the WTC final from June 7 to 11.

WELCOME NEWS

RCB's Rajat Patidar undergoes successful surgery

Royal Challengers Bangalore's Rajat Patidar underwent a successful surgery to repair an injured Achilles heel that had been troubling him for a while and had ruled him out of the IPL. The 29-year-old from Madhya Pradesh had suffered the injury prior to joining the RCB training camp ahead of the IPL season.

GAME-CHANGER

He's a fantastic bowler, happy that he's back: du Plessis on Hazlewood

Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper Faf du Plessis said the team had missed the services of Josh Hazlewood. "He is a fantastic bowler and we are very happy to have him back," du Plessis said in a video posted by IPL. "It was nice to get out there as I was sick of bowling in the nets," said Hazlewood.

Super Giants-Super Kings battle: rain has the final say

The Chennai bowlers, particularly the spinners, dictate terms as the Lucknow outfit crawls to 125 for seven in 19.2 overs; Badoni plays a lone hand, revives team from a precarious 44 for five

IPL-16

M.R. Praveen Chandran
LUCKNOW

A downpour came as a respite for Lucknow Super Giants as it managed to end its sequence of losses at home in the IPL match against Chennai Super Kings at the Ekana Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.

Steady rain, which stopped play with four deliveries remaining in the Super Giants innings, didn't relent, forcing the umpires to call off the match at 7 p.m. The teams got a point each.

At the time of interruption, Super Giants had limped to 125 for seven in 19.2 overs.

The Chennai Super Kings spinners tied the Super Giants batters in knots and it needed a brisk knock from Ayush Badoni, who hit four sixes and two fours in his unbeaten 59 off 33 balls, to resurrect the innings.

Silver lining: Badoni's knock provided some runs and hope to Super Giants. AP

Scripting a revival

Badoni figured in a 59-run sixth-wicket stand off 48 balls with the uncharacteristically subdued Nicholas Pooran (20) as Super Giants recovered from a precarious position (44 for five) to reach a par total on a sluggish pitch.

Badoni provided the final flourish, smashing 20 off Deepak Chahar's final over – the penultimate one of the Super Giants innings.

Badoni, after top-edging a four, imperiously pulled Chahar over mid-wicket for a six and struck a maximum over extra-cover.

After the start was delayed by rain, the Super Kings bowlers, especially the tweakers, justified Dhoni's decision to bowl first by rocking the Super Giants line-up.

The rut started when Kyle Mayers' attempt to hit Moeen Ali over long-off ended in the hands of Ruturaj Gaikwad.

Maheesh Theekshana's two in two – he cleaned up Manan Vohra and forced Krunal Pandya to edge to Ajinkya Rahane at slip off the next delivery – pushed Lucknow deeper into trouble. Ravindra Jadeja castled Marcus Stoinis with a ball that spun across and beat the bat, leaving the Australian stunned.

Karan Sharma danced down the track but hit the ball straight back to bowler Moeen. But Badoni rose to the occasion to rescue Super Giants before the heavens opened.

Next assignment

CSK: May 6 **vs. MI**
Chennai, 3.30 p.m.

LSG: May 7 **vs. GT**
Ahmedabad, 3.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Manan Vohra b Theekshana 10 *(11b, 1x4)*, Kyle Mayers c Ruturaj b Moeen 14 *(17b, 2x4)*, Karan Sharma c & b Moeen 9 *(16b)*, Krunal Pandya c Rahane b Theekshana 0 *(1b)*, Marcus Stoinis b Jadeja 6 *(4b, 1x4)*, Nicholas Pooran c Moeen b Pathirana 20 *(31b)*, Ayush Badoni (not out) 59 *(33b, 2x4, 4x6)*, K. Gowtham c Rahane b Pathirana 1 *(3b)*; Extras (w-6): 6; Total (for seven wkts. in 19.2 overs): 125.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-18 (Mayers, 3.4 overs), 2-27 (Vohra, 5.4), 3-27 (Krunal, 5.5), 4-34 (Stoinis, 6.5), 5-44 (Karan, 9.4), 6-103 (Pooran, 17.4), 7-125 (Gowtham, 19.2).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Deepak Chahar 4-0-41-0, Deshpande 1-0-1-0, Moeen 4-0-13-2, Theekshana 4-0-37-2, Jadeja 2-0-11-1, Pathirana 3.2-0-22-2.

Toss: Super Kings.

No result.

Kishan, Suryakumar deliver for Mumbai Indians in exciting chase

Ayan Acharya
MOHALI

If this were a competition to see which team bowled less poorly on a good batting surface, then the Mumbai Indians edged past the Punjab Kings by the barest of margins in a six-wicket win at the I.S. Bindra Stadium here on Wednesday.

After becoming the first team in IPL history to register four 200-plus totals in a row, Punjab was blown to smithereens by Mumbai's Ishan Kishan (75, 41b, 7x4, 4x6) and Impact Player Suryakumar Yadav (66, 31b, 8x4, 2x6) in the pursuit of 215.

Scanning Suryakumar's pre-game routine of visualisation alongside the majority of boundaries he hit, especially the cut, the slice, and the wristy pick-up shot over short-fine which took him to a 23-ball 50, you'll see why he is one of the most feared T20 batters in world cricket.

Batting as if endowed with foresight, Suryakumar's shots behind square reduced the PBKS bowlers to mere spectators.

Double trouble: For Kings, Kishan and Suryakumar proved a thorn in their flesh. R.V. MOORTHY

Perfect foil

He was well supported by Kishan, who slammed a 29-ball 50 and ensured the early dismissals of Rohit Sharma and Cameron Green did not hurt.

Suryakumar and Ishan fell after adding 116 (55b) for the third wicket but Tim David and Tilak Varma, who hit a hat-trick of boundaries off Arshdeep Singh in the 17th over, ensured the team got home with seven balls to spare.

Earlier, Kings rode on an unbroken 53-ball 119-run fourth-wicket partnership between Liam Livingstone and Jitesh Sharma. After 10 overs, PBKS was 95 for three when Livingstone and Jitesh pressed the accelerator.

Livingstone reached his fifty off 32 balls and then hit a hat-trick of sixes off Jofra Archer (none for 56).

The Mumbai Indians quicks bowled a combination of slower and shorter balls up front to force the batters to hit to the big square boundaries.

Rohit had catching men behind square on either side for Dhawan, but none of his pacers tested him with well-directed short deliveries. Dhawan was eventually stumped off leggie Piyush Chawla, who also removed Matt Short.

This was the solitary high point in MI's bowling, but the batters ultimately saved the team the blushes.

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS

Prabhsimran Singh c Kishan b Arshad 9 *(7b, 1x4)*, Shikhar Dhawan st. Kishan b Chawla 30 *(20b, 5x4)*, Matthew Short b Chawla 27 *(26b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Liam Livingstone (not out) 82 *(42b, 7x4, 4x6)*, Jitesh Sharma (not out) 49 *(27b, 5x4, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-5, w-10, nb-2): 17; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 214.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Prabhsimran, 1.3 overs), 2-62 (Dhawan, 7.2), 3-95 (Short, 11.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Green 2-0-15-0, Arshad 4-0-48-1, Archer 4-0-56-0, Chawla 4-0-29-2, Kartikeya 3-0-24-0, Madhwal 3-0-37-0.

MUMBAI INDIANS

Rohit Sharma c Short b Rishi 0 *(3b)*, Ishan Kishan c Rishi b Arshdeep 75 *(41b, 7x4, 4x6)*, Cameron Green c Rahul Chahar b Ellis 23 *(18b, 4x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav **(Impact Player in place of Madhwal)** c Arshdeep b Ellis 66 *(31b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Tim David (not out) 19 *(10b, 3x4)*, Tilak Varma (not out) 26 *(10b, 1x4, 3x6)*; Extras (b-4, w-3): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 18.5 overs): 216.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Rohit, 0.3), 2-54 (Green, 5.6), 3-170 (Suryakumar, 15.1), 4-178 (Kishan, 16.1).

PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING

Rishi 3-0-20-1, Arshdeep 3.5-0-66-1, Curran 3-0-41-0, Ellis **(Impact Player in place of Prabhsimran)** 4-0-34-2, Rahul Chahar 3-0-30-0, Brar 2-0-21-0.

Toss: MI; **PoM:** Kishan.

MI won by six wickets with seven balls remaining.

Next assignment

MI: May 6 **vs. CSK**
Chennai, 3.30 p.m.

PBKS: May 8 **vs. KKR**
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

Aman delighted with valuable knock

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

In a prolonged session of range-hitting that lasted almost an hour on the side pitch at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Delhi Capitals' Aman Khan was finding the seats located deep in the stands with striking regularity.

Still, he was told that he would have to sit out the game on Tuesday as he had been unable to translate his immense potential in a match scenario during his five opportunities with the willow (just 34 runs) before the Capitals travelled to Ahmedabad.

Stroke-filled

Had Mitchell Marsh not fallen sick overnight, Aman would have been serving drinks on match night.

But once he was drafted in, Aman made optimum use of the given chance with a sensible-yet-stroke-ful 44-ball 51 that helped the Capitals touch the 130-run mark.

Walking in to bat with the Capitals tottering at 23 for five in the PowerPlay, Aman combined caution with aggression during his two partnerships with Axar Patel and Ripal Patel.

"I was always ready to play. I got to know in the morning that Marsh was unwell. I had to fill in those shoes.

"He played really well in the last game. Therefore, I was satisfied with what I was able to do," said Aman.

Stepping up: Aman came to the Capitals' rescue. AFP

Points Table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	9	6	3	0	12	0.532
Lucknow Super Giants	10	5	4	1	11	0.639
Chennai Super Kings	10	5	4	1	11	0.329
Rajasthan Royals	9	5	4	0	10	0.800
Royal Challengers	9	5	4	0	10	-0.030
Mumbai Indians	9	5	4	0	10	-0.373
Punjab Kings	10	5	5	0	10	-0.472
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	6	0	6	-0.147
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	3	5	0	6	-0.577
Delhi Capitals	9	3	6	0	6	-0.768

After the PBKS-MI match on May 3

Teams seek consistency as SRH meets KKR in a contest of equals

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

When Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders clash here on Thursday, they will have the same objective: find consistency in all departments of the game.

It will be interesting to see if Sunrisers' think-tank sticks to southpaw Abhishek Sharma, after his breezy half-century against Delhi, as opener.

Apparently, dangerman Harry Brook is struggling after a quick-fire century earlier in the tournament and moved to No. 5 in the last game. He has to regain his wonted touch.

It is imperative for Sunrisers to see the likes of Rahul Tripathi, even captain Aiden Markram to score big at the top and give the kind of liberty for the free-stroking wicketkeeper batter Heinrich Klaasen to go all out in the death overs.

Time to deliver: A good knock from Tripathi would help Sunrisers' cause against Knight Riders. PTI

Even the once formidable bowling attack of Sunrisers seems to be struggling to get the act together under pressure. Leggie Mayank Markande has been impressive but needs the pacers to strike early.

On the other hand, captain Nitish Rana should lead from the front if Kolkata were to look for the badly-needed win and opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz who was brilliant against Gujarat, Venkatesh Iyer, Rinku Singh and the big-hitting Andre Russel have to up the ante to let the bowlers have a chance to dictate terms. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy has been the lead performer with the ball for Knight Riders but the inconsistency of the other bowlers is definitely a concern.

When Knight Riders, with six points from nine games, and Sunrisers with six from eight, meet it might be a contest of the equals.

Today's match

Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 24

SRH 9 | KKR 15

PREVIOUS MEETING

SRH won by **23 runs**, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

INBRIEF

Former World 100m champ Torie Bowie passes away at 32

Tori Bowie, the 100m silver medallist at the 2016 Rio Olympics and the 2017 World champion, has died at the age of 32, USATF and her management company said on Wednesday. Bowie also won an Olympic 200m bronze and gold in the 4x100m relay at the Rio Games. Two years later in Rio, she prevented a Jamaican clean sweep of the 100m medals when she finished second to Elaine Thompson in a time of 10.83sec with Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce third. Bowie remains the lone American woman to win an Olympic or world 100m title since Carmelita Jeter in 2011. Fraser-Pryce, the Jamaican reigning World 100m champion, tweeted: "My heart breaks for the family of Tori Bowie. A great competitor and source of light. Your energy and smile will always be with me. Rest in peace."

Bhowneesh and Prithviraj stay in the race in men's trap

Bhowneesh Mendiratta and Prithviraj Tondaman kept themselves in the race for the semifinals as they scored 94 out of 100 in four rounds of men's trap in the shotgun World Cup in Cairo on Wednesday. Zoravar Singh Sandhu had fluctuating fortunes as he found himself in the 43rd spot with 91. In women's trap, Rajeshwari Kumari shot 88, the sixth best score.

BENGALURU LOCALS

Bellary HC thrashes Naveen HC

Bellary HC whipped Naveen HC 9-0 in the 92nd Travancore Cup hockey tournament here.

The result: Bellary HC 9 (Bharath Kumar 6, 16, 23, 40, Sumanth 9, 12, 15, Basavaraj 17, Yokesh 45) bt Naveen HC 0.

Max Muller pips DPS North

Max Muller edged out DPS North by one wicket in the Tiger Cup under-14 tournament here.

The scores:

DPS (North) 140/7 in 30 overs (Chetan Vishnu 60) lost to Max Muller 143/9 in 29.5 overs (Neeraj Kulkarni 25).

Young Lions 139 in 28 overs (M. Rohith 72, Shardul Joshi 3/16, Vidhan Loyalka 3/21) lost to Gopalan 140/5 in 25.2 overs (Kush Kumar 51, Rithwik Kumar 30).

Bangalore Phantom runs riot

Bangalore Phantom FC slammed 18 goals against Indian Knights in the BDFA C-division football league here.

The results: Bangalore Phantom FC bt Indian Knights FC 18-0; Universal FC bt Navarathna FC 1-0; Vijayanagara FC bt Queens Star FC 3-0.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5.30 a.m.
ATP Madrid Open: Sony LIV, 4.30 p.m. onwards
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Friday)
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Usha assures support to wrestlers in surprise visit

Vinesh Phogat admits the IOA chief was non-committal about the committee formed to look into their complaints

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Days after saying the protesting wrestlers were being indisciplined and a day after being heavily criticised by them, IOA president P.T. Usha made a surprise visit to Jantar Mantar to meet them on Wednesday and reportedly assured them support.

While Usha refused to talk to the assembled media, she spent time with the three protesting wrestlers who later expressed thanks for her visit.

"For us, anyone who comes here to support us is welcome and we respect them all. Better late than never. She claimed her statements have been twisted and that she was an athlete first and foremost, assuring us of her support," Bajrang Punia said.

"Even though she did not directly say anything about ending the protest, she did say 'I want to see you at training, see you practice and win more medals for the country'," Sakshi Malik added.

Solidarity: IOA president P.T. Usha meets the protesting wrestlers on Wednesday. ANI

Asked about the IOA committee formed to look into their complaints, Vinesh Phogat admitted Usha was non-committal.

"She did not give any timespan for the committee to complete its investigation, saying these things take time and that the IOA has now formed a committee to run the WFI also.

"We told her that now the WFI is under IOA, it should focus on holding competitions and ensuring things are normal and safe for youngsters and that as a Rajya Sabha MP, raising our issues there will be a sign of support," she said.

The wrestlers also slammed the Delhi Police for spreading disinformation to discredit them.

"They are saying the wrestlers are not recording statements or co-operating, they tell people coming to meet us that we hardly stay here – do they have anything in writing from any wrestler?

"This morning some kids from an NGO came and were told no one stays here, the wrestlers come only by 11 or 12. They are constantly blaming us and giving excuses," Vinesh claimed.

Ding Liren completes China's Big Dragon Project

CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Tell me, Grandmaster, how can a Western European GM lose to a Chinaman?

Dutch GM and author Jan Hein Donner thus asked Gudmundur Sigurjonsson, an Icelandic player, during the Chess Olympiad at Buenos Aires in 1978 after the latter lost to Qi Jingxuan. Donner was actually trying to console Sigurjonsson, but those weren't probably the aptest of words to do it.

China defeated Iceland 3-1 in that match, in the opening round. That was quite a shock at that time.

Today, Iceland is ranked 44th in the world, while China is third. And China holds both the men's and women's World titles (Ding Liren and Ju Wenjun).

Ding Liren. AP

Ju Wenjun. COURTESY FIDE

Culminating point

Ding winning the World chess championship at Astana on Sunday is perhaps the culminating point for the Big Dragon Project.

The project was proposed in 1974 by top chess officials of some Asian countries to take the game in the continent to the highest level globally. China was chosen as the first country as it was felt the potential was the most there. The main man behind the project was Dato Tan Chin Nam, the president of the Malaysian Chess Federation, a wealthy businessman and philanthropist. The aim was to make Chinese chess world-class by the end of the century.

If the project had been thought of earlier, China wouldn't have been a candidate at all.

The ban

The sport had been banned in China during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), a socio-political movement that acted against the bourgeoisie elements. It was only in 1974 that the ban was lifted.

China, it seemed, was determined to make up for lost time. Backed by the Chinese government and Tan, chess grew rapidly in the country.

In 1990, China won the women's bronze medal at the Chess Olympiad. The following year, Xie Jun became the women's World champion, ending a 64-year reign of European countries.

Five other Chinese women have gone on to win the World championships. At the Chess Olympiad, China has been a dominant force, winning the team gold in the open and women's sections multiple times.

To go back to Donner's question about a Grandmaster losing to a Chinaman – he found out how in that very Olympiad. He lost to China's Liu Wenzhe.

After losing the game which is known as the Chinese Immortal, Dooner said, "Now 800 million Chinese people will know my name."

He could not have imagined that a few decades later both the male and female World chess champions would be speaking Chinese.

ATK MB prevails over Hyderabad FC in a penalty shootout

AFC CUP QUALIFIER

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

In the final act of the season for Indian football, there was plenty of drama.

At the end of it all, ATK Mohun Bagan got the better of Hyderabad FC via penalty shootout and qualified for the preliminary stage of the AFC Cup. The playoff finished in a 1-1 draw here on Wednesday.

Both goals came in normal time. Before the extra time got underway, Hyderabad's coach Manalo Marquez was given a red card. So he had to watch the rest of what was his last match with the club from the stands.

Dimitrios Petratos of ATK MB runs with the ball against Hyderabad. K. RAGESH

And his players failed to give a perfect parting gift to him, as they made a mess of the penalty kicks. They missed three and could convert only one. As for ATK MB, it was the team's third win of the season in a shootout.

It was Hyderabad that looked more likely to score, as it pressed forward, created chances and shot towards the ATK MB goal at regular intervals. But, it was the Kolkatan side that scored first, much against the run of play.

From the right flank, Hugo Boumous cut into the box and gave a fine pass to Dimitrios Petratos, who slammed the ball into the back of the net.

But, shortly before the interval, Hyderabad equalised through Joel Chianese, who pushed the assist from Borja Gonzalez, from inside the box, gently into the bottom corner of the post.

The result: ATK Mohun Bagan 1 (Dimitrios Petratos 20) drew with Hyderabad FC 1 (Joel Chianese 44). ATK MB won 3-1 on penalties.

Nishant takes out Sarkhan in first round

BOXING WORLDS

Sports Bureau

Nishant Dev upset eighth-seeded Sarkhan Aliyev 5-0 in a 71kg first round bout at the World boxing championships in Tashkent on Wednesday.

A two-time National champion and a quarterfinalist of the previous World championships, 22-year-old Nishant gave an impactful performance against Sarkhan, a 2021 Worlds bronze medallist, to set up a round of 32 clash with Korean Sangmin Lee.

Powerful punches

A tall southpaw, Nishant boxed from a long range and dominated by using his powerful left punches, including fine uppercuts, and accurate rights.

As Sarkhan moved in to attack, Nishant blunted his rival's attempts with some solid shots.

A low blow brought the Azerbaijani down on the canvas and fetched the Indian a warning in the second round.

Having won the first two periods 4-1 and 5-0, Nishant maintained a safe distance, moved around and counter-attacked to take the final three minutes 5-0 and emerge as the winner.

Four Indians – Asian championships medalists Govind Sahani (48kg), Deepak Bhoria (51kg), Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) and Narender Berwal (+92kg) – would be seen in action on Thursday.

Kudermetova bests Pegula, in last four

Great going: Kudermetova beat Pegula in three sets to reach a WTA 1000 event semifinal for the first time. AFP

MADRID OPEN

Agencies
MADRID

Russian Veronika Kudermetova ousted world No. 3 Jessica Pegula 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 in a topsy-turvy clash on Wednesday to reach the Madrid Open semifinals.

"To beat Jessica it feels very nice, I'm so proud of myself because every match I played almost three hours," said Kudermetova. In the men's section, Carlos Alcaraz entered the quarterfinals beating Alexander Zverev.

Other results: Men, fourth round: Struff bt Cachin 7-6(7), 6-7(7), 6-3; Tsitsipas bt Miralles 6-3, 6-1; Alcaraz bt Zverev 6-1, 6-2; Coric bt Davidovich 6-7(5), 6-3, 7-6(5); Zhizhen bt Fritz 3-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(8).

Women, quarterfinals: Sakkari bt Begu 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-2.

Indian girls to play Vietnam for minor placings

Sports Bureau

India outplayed Mongolia in the last league match, dropping only three games in all, but it was no consolation as the team had missed the chance to qualify for the quarterfinals in the Asia-Oceania Junior Billie Jean King Cup under-16 girls' tennis tournament in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday.

In the match for the minor placings, India, which had earlier lost to Chinese Taipei and Thailand, will play Vietnam on Thursday.

Chinese Taipei topped the group by beating Thailand in the last league match.

The results (league): India bt Mongolia 3-0 (Sejal Bhutada bt Oyungerel Khasbaatar 6-0, 6-0; Asmi Adkar bt Ninjin Sanchir 6-0, 6-0; Asmi & Aakruti Sonkusare bt Namuunkhuslen Erdembileg & Ninjin 6-0, 6-3).

Bopanna and Ebden cruise past top seeds

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Seventh seeds Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden outplayed the top seeds Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski 6-3, 6-2 in the doubles quarterfinals of the €8,796,536 ATP tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, on Wednesday.

The results: €8,796,536 ATP, Madrid: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Rohan Bopanna & Matthew Ebden (Aus) bt Wesley Koolhof (Ned) & Neal Skupski (GBR) 6-3, 6-2.

$80,000 Challenger, Gwangju, Korea: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Arjun Kadhe & JiSung Nam (Kor) bt Jaesung Choe & Uisung Park (Kor) 6-4, 6-2; Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Altug Celikbilek & Cem Ilkel (Tur) 7-5, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF, Monastir: Men: First round: Gage Brymer (USA) bt Drona Walia 6-2, 6-2.

Women: First round: Vaishnavi Adkar bt Xu Jiayu (Chn) 6-0, 6-1; Camilla Gennaro (Ita) bt Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Nina Rudiukova & Elizaveta Shebekina bt Jennifer Luikham & Teja Tirunelveli (USA) 6-4, 4-6, [10-8].

$15,000 ITF men, Osijek, Croatia: First round: Duje Kekez (Cro) bt Dev Javia 6-1, 6-2.

$100,000 ITF women, Bonita Springs, USA: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Yuriko Miyazaki (GBR) & Prarthana Thombare bt Rohin Anderson & Maria Mateas (USA) 6-3, 6-1.

$60,000 ITF women, Prague: Pre-quarterfinals: Jessica Bouzas (Esp) bt Karman Kaur Thandi 6-4, 6-3.

$40,000 ITF women, Tbilisi, Georgia: Doubles: Semifinals: Ekaterine Gorgodze (Geo) & Ankita Raina bt Stacey Fung (Can) & Maria Kozyreva 6-4, 3-6, [10-5]; Quarterfinals: Stacey & Maria bt Aysegul Mert (Tur) & Sahaja Yamalapalli 7-5, 6-1; Ekaterine & Ankita bt Georgia Kalamaris (Fra) & Victoria Lazarova (Bul) 6-0, 6-0.

$25,000 ITF women, Nottingham: First round: Rutuja Bhosale bt Elina Popescu (Rou) 6-0, 6-0.

Arsenal gets back to winning ways; Barca has one hand on LaLiga title

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
LONDON

Arsenal ended a four-game winless run by dismantling a listless Chelsea 3-1 on Tuesday to temporarily return to the top of the Premier League standings.

Arsenal was 3-0 up inside 34 minutes of a one-sided first half, with Martin Odegaard scoring two nearly identical goals and Gabriel Jesus adding the third as Chelsea slumped to a sixth straight loss in all competitions under caretaker manager Frank Lampard.

The visitors offered little in response until Chukwunonso Madueke pulled one back in the 65th but never came close to staging a comeback as the hosts saw out the game.

Jordi Alba struck a late winner for Barcelona in a 1-0 win over 10-man Osasuna on Tuesday to move the Catalans a step closer to their first LaLiga title since 2019.

Off the mark: Odegaard, second right, bends in Arsenal's first against Chelsea. AFP

Xavi Hernandez's side climbed 14 points clear of second place Real Madrid, which lost 2-0 at Real Sociedad.

The visitors had debutant Jorge Herrando sent off in the first half for a professional foul on Pedri, as they sat deep and tried to frustrate hosts Barcelona.

Visiting goalkeeper Aitor Fernandez kept the leaders at bay in the second half but eventually substitute Alba, who has had reduced minutes this season, sliced home a volley to snatch a late victory.

If Barcelona earns two more points from its last five games, it will be champion.

The results: Premier League: Arsenal 3 (Odegaard 18, 31, Jesus 34) bt Chelsea 1 (Madueke 65).
LaLiga: Barcelona 1 (Alba 85) bt Osasuna 0; Real Sociedad 2 (Kubo 47, Barrenetxea 85) bt Real Madrid 0.